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THE TIMES

Laying the ghost
of Keynes:
Ronald Butt, page 12

'Two-speed' plan for EEC economic integration

A plan for "two-speed" European economic integration was put forward yesterday by Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister. It would allow weaker EEC members, such as Britain and Italy, to lag temporarily behind the more prosperous nations.

Safeguards proposed for poorer nations

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Jan 7

A "two-speed" move towards the economic integration of Europe, in which weaker members of the EEC, such as Britain and Italy, would be allowed temporarily to lag behind their more prosperous fellows, is the most concrete and detailed proposal of the report on European union made public here today by Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister.

The idea is very similar to the one advanced last year, controversially, in late 1974, by Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor, except that Mr Tindemans is at greater pains to spell out various safeguards which he believes would prevent the gap between rich and poor EEC members becoming permanent.

He also calls on member states to "take the political decision to pursue a common foreign policy within a given number of specific fields, selected in relation to their importance and the practicability of fulfilling them". More coordination of national policies is no longer enough, he says.

The Council of Foreign Ministers, in particular, should have powers to coordinate the work of other ministerial meetings, Mr Tindemans says. The attempt to maintain a distinction between the discussion of political affairs and trade and economic matters, should be abolished and majority voting should become the general rule rather than the exception.

The Council of Ministers should delegate more power to the European Commission and to Cooper, the Brussels-based committee of member states' ambassadors to the EEC. The Council should also pay more attention to resolutions passed by the European Parliament, which ought eventually to be given a constitutional right of initiating policy like that exercised by the Commission.

The European Council and the Council of Ministers should be prepared to entrust negotiations with non-EEC countries to the Commission, or to a particular person or member state, independent of majority voting, if it happened to hold the EEC presidency at a given time. In the interests of continuity, the presidency should also run for 12 months, instead of six as at present.

At a press conference accompanying the presentation of his report, Mr Tindemans made clear that for him progress on economic and monetary union was the most important immediate priority. "Failure to act in a matter as important as this could well be regarded as a very serious breach of the European structure," he declared.

Elaborating his scheme for a "two-speed" approach, Mr Tindemans said that Europe could not move at the pace of the federal system, can only be achieved through the consolidation and strengthening of the EEC's existing institutions. For the present, Mr Tindemans does not see any value in proposing elaborate new constitutional structures for the European Union.

His report urges that the guiding role of the European Council (summit meetings of heads of government) should be more strongly asserted, with decisions on Community matters being taken by majority vote. The European Council should determine the broad outlines of policy, leaving the detailed implementation to a strengthened Council of Ministers.

Continued on page 5, col 1

Palestinians overrun Christians in Beirut

Beirut, Jan 7.—Supported by intense rocket, mortar and aircraft fire, several thousand Palestinian guerrillas pushed out of an encircled refugee camp today, overrunning Christian lines and seizing a strategic two-mile arc of territory in eastern Beirut.

Initial police estimates put early casualties in the battle at 22 dead and about 50 wounded. This raised the toll of nine months of Christian-Muslim warfare to about 3,100 dead and 17,275 wounded.

In Kuwait today Mr Abdel Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, was quoted as saying that Syria would intervene to stop any attempt to break up Lebanon as a result of the civil conflict.

In a statement published by the Kuwait press, Mr Khaddam said: "Lebanon used to be part of Syria and we shall make it back at the first serious attempt at partition."

He arrived in Kuwait last night on the second stage of a tour of Gulf states to prepare for the opening next Monday of the United Nations Security Council debate on Palestine.

Mr Pierre Gemayel, the Phalangist leader, said in Beirut today that his militia would fight to the last man if Syrian or Israeli troops invaded Lebanon. He added that the Lebanese crisis could lead to a third world war.

Palestinian and other Muslim forces pushed north and west from the Tal Zaatar refugee camp in an attempt to break a Christian blockade of food and supplies to the encircled camp, lasting five days.

They pushed north one mile to the Muslim suburb of Nabatiya, driving a corridor through Christian territory to bring supplies of food for the camp's 6,000 residents and the 30,000 Muslims who live in districts round it.

They pushed west also about one mile to the outskirts of the Christian bastion of Sin el-Fil. A spokesman said they expected to overrun it before the day was out.

Christian militia spokesmen said that the Christians were launching a counter-offensive to regain the lost territory, but 12 hours after the battle had begun, they still appeared to be losing ground to the Palestinians.

As the fighting intensified it spilled over into the adjacent Christian and Muslim areas and a big battle for eastern Beirut seemed imminent.

The Palestinian aim seemed to be to drive the Christian forces west across Beirut river, leaving them trapped between the east bank and Muslim left-wingers controlling the western quarter of the city.

Christian lines on the west bank were coming under shell fire to prevent them from sending reinforcements to the front.

Christian forces on the east bank were believed to number about 2,000 men, mostly from the right-wing Phalangist party and the National Liberal Party of Mr Camille Chéhab, the Minister of the Interior. They also had the support of several hundred members of the internal security forces.

Armed men and personnel carriers. The Palestinians and left-wing forces threw about 3,000 men into the battle. There was a growing conviction on both sides that the civil war was heading towards a climax. "This is the final coming down to the crunch of the whole war," a Christian street fighter said.

In their counter-offensive, the Phalangists shelled and retook the Hayek hospital clinic seized by Palestinians in the morning during the battle. A Phalangist spokesman said that six people were inside the clinic when the Palestinians took it, including two patients, a doctor, a nun and two attendants. He believed they had been taken to the Quinlan Palace to intern.

The Palestinians still held on to their other main positions, a vocational training school, the home of a Phalangist leader and two strategic traffic intersections north of the camp.

Negotiations to establish a new ceasefire failed when the left wingers and Palestinians refused to attend a meeting of the supreme coordination committee. They stormed out of the committee, threatening violence unless the Christian blockade against the Tal Zaatar camp was lifted.

A meeting of the Cabinet was also suspended because several ministers were trapped behind zones of fighting.

Special Air Service unit ordered into south Armagh

By Our Political Staff

The Government has decided to send a contingent of the Special Air Service Regiment, trained to deal with guerrilla warfare and insurgents, into Northern Ireland's troubled county of south Armagh where 10 Protestants were massacred on Monday night.

A Downing Street statement said: "The Government has decided further to reinforce the Army in Northern Ireland with elements of the Special Air Service. These troops will be used for patrolling and surveillance, tasks for which the SAS are particularly well-suited."

The news of the SAS reinforcement 24 hours after the decision to put a further 600 troops into south Armagh was criticised last night by Mr Gerard Fitt, leader of the mainly Roman Catholic Social Democratic and Labour Party. He said: "People in Northern Ireland, I believe, would apply the same standards to the SAS as they do to the CIA." He added: "I do not think they would be helpful in a situation such as this."

His colleague, Mr Paddy Devlin, added: "It is only a cosmetic exercise. The SAS have always been here."

Mr George Younger, shadow Defence Secretary, and Mr Airey Neave, the party spokesman on Ulster, both welcomed the move.

Christopher Walker writes from Belfast:

As the first wave of British reinforcements moved into the border district of south Armagh yesterday Provisional Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Provisional IRA, was snubbed in its efforts to set up new talks with the Protestant clergyman instrumental in organising the discontinued ceasefire.

After a request from Sinn Féin's president, Mr Rory O'Druid, the church leaders issued a statement refusing to begin talks in the Irish Republic until the paramilitary organisations order an end to the sectarian violence.

The decision, which is taken in Northern Ireland as recognition that the churchmen were in danger of being used by the Provisional IRA for propaganda purposes, rules out for the moment further initiatives along one of the few routes still open for finding at least a temporary solution.

In a statement issued through the Rev William Arlow, secretary of the Irish Council of Churches, the churchmen said: "These killings can be stopped if all paramilitary organisations decide that they will not be party to any such activity and that they will do all in their power to prevent their personnel, or others known to them, from taking part in such assassinations."

The churchmen involved in the peace talks at Feakle, Co. Clare, added: "We see no purpose in attempting private negotiations in a situation where the pious is on one side and the killers on the other. The time is not for talking, but for action. We call upon the leadership of all paramilitary organisations to issue, without delay, an order forbidding all acts of aggression or retaliation at least for such time as will test the willingness of the other side to do the same."

The statement was also signed by the Rev Arthur Butler, Bishop of Connor; the Rev Eric Gallagher, a former Methodist minister; Dr Jack Weir, Presbyterian Moderator-designate; and Dr Stanley Worral, former headmaster of the Methodist College, Belfast.

Meanwhile, on the eve of the vital border security talks between Mr. Rees and Mr. Cooney, the Irish Minister for Justice, the RUC said that a van found abandoned in the Irish border town of Dundalk on Tuesday was similar to one seen speeding from the scene of the massacre on Monday night. Ulster Special Branch detectives are convinced that it was used by the 12 terrorists who carried out the mass murder, but an Irish Government spokesman said there was no evidence to support that.

The question of extradition, destined to be high on the agenda, has also resurfaced after an allegation that a man was on bail in the Irish Republic is believed by the police on this side of the border to have been the leader of the terrorists.

One name being mentioned yesterday was that of Mr B. Smith, a former leading member of the Provisional IRA, who fell out with the organization after applying for bail, appealing against a decision to deport him to the Republic. In 1974 he was charged with the membership of the IRA, and still awaiting trial.

Mr Smith is widely believed to be leader of the south Armagh Republican Action Force. The body of a man believed to be in his late twenties, was found last night in Donegal Road in the Protestant area of Belfast. He has been shot in the head.

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Mr Kennedy said the committee had written to the Crown Agent in Edinburgh saying that the man and Mr Ian Waddell, who is alleged to have made long and detailed statements about the crime, were responsible and not Mr McEneaney and James Griffiths. Mr Griffiths was killed in a gun battle with the police when they tried to arrest him.

The letter from the committee states: "Admittedly, this is an unusual proposal, but as the Lord Advocate has twice indicated that he does not intend to institute criminal proceedings against Waddell, despite his many detailed confessions to the crime, there would presumably be no difficulty in extending the same concession to his accomplice. The prime concern of the McEneaney committee is to get an innocent man released from prison."

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Second man 'ready to admit Ayr murder'

By Ronald Faux

A second man is prepared to admit to the murder of Mrs Rachel Ross, a widow in Ayr six years ago for which Patrick McEneaney, a Glasgow safe-blower, is serving a life sentence, according to the Patrick McEneaney Committee, which is pressing for an inquiry into the case.

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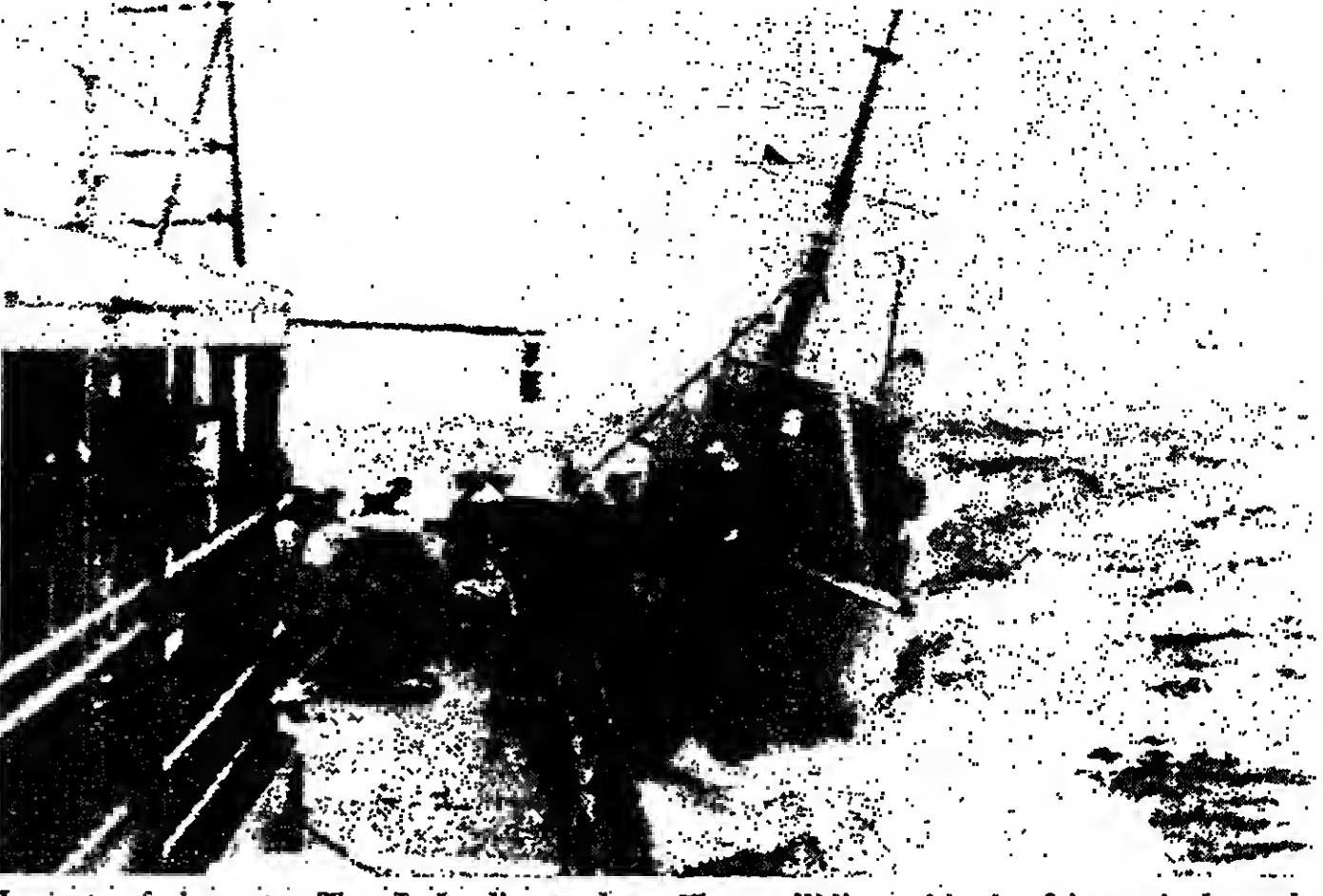
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Moment of impact: The Icelandic gunboat Thor colliding with the frigate Andromeda yesterday. "A deliberate attack", says Britain. Report on page 5.

£58m cut in councils' spending on housing

By John Young
Planning Reporter

A significant reduction in permitted capital expenditure on housing by local authorities was announced yesterday. Excluding new building, on which the Government has declined to place limits, the total allocation for 1976-77 is £270m compared with £327m in the present financial year, a cut of £57m. This represents a cut of just over 7 per cent, not allowing for inflation effects.

The reduction lends weight to the Government's expressed determination to cut public sector borrowing. The total allotted for the "municipalisation" of private property, for example, is £175m, compared with £185m. For renovation of council-owned dwellings it is £270m (including the £10m announced

by the Treasury in October to relieve unemployment in the building industry), compared with £285m this year.

The largest reduction is in the amount available for local authority mortgage lending, which is down from £275m to £220m. A study group last year under the chairmanship of Mr P. Freeman, Minister for Housing and Construction, concluded that that was the area needing least.

Ministers claim to be encouraged by the apparent readiness of building societies to take greater risks in granting mortgages and to venture into "grey areas" much more than had been expected. In the third quarter of 1975 just under 19 per cent of mortgages granted were on pre-1914 properties, and about 27 per cent were to borrowers earning less than the average manual wage.

The societies are expected to meet the local authority associations in a few days to discuss council guarantees on loans to approved borrowers. The Government expects the local authorities to regard themselves as lenders of last resort and has asked them to guard against a shortage by not committing more than three fifths of their quotas in the first half of the year.

The only increase in allocations is for local authority grants and loans to housing associations, from £82m to £104m. This is a result of the unexpectedly high number of applications under the Housing Act, 1974.

About 85 per cent of next year's allocation is needed to cover expenditure on projects already approved, and yesterday's announcement said the number of new approvals would have to be much lower.

However, about £270m will be available to loans from the Housing Corporation. Blaw to London: Mr Richard Balle, chairman of the Greater London Council Housing Development Committee, said the cut for modernising council homes would, if applied to London, have a depressing effect on the council's strategy of urban renewal (the Press Association reports).

He expected, however, that the allocation of funds to London councils would enable current programmes to continue.

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Influence of consultants in dispute is condemned

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

Consultants have used their position to try to influence junior doctors not to take industrial action. That was stated at a meeting of the Council of the British Medical Association yesterday, which condemned the consultants' action.

During a debate on the junior doctors' dispute, the council recorded a "total condemnation of any misuse of leverage by any member of the profession in any attempt to influence action of other members of the profession in any dispute in which official industrial action has been advised."

The council asked its executive, in consultation with the central ethical committee, to consider what action to take where evidence of misuse existed and to give guidance. It is understood that only a few consultants have made things difficult for their juniors who have been involved in industrial action.

Junior doctors have to move from hospital to hospital and to a degree depend in their early careers on recommendations from their seniors. The issue was raised by a junior doctor but by a senior member of the council.

Agreement between junior doctors and the Government appeared to be in jeopardy last night after a meeting between the doctors' leaders and officials of the Department of Health and Social Security to discuss the independent audit of overtime payments.

The feeling among the doctors' leaders was that, in the words of one, "the department will wriggle again."

Continued on page 5, col 1

Shares ownership row 'with DPP'

The Director of Public Prosecutions is believed to have received a report on facts leading up to a dispute over the ownership of a block of shares pledged as security by Mr William Stern, whose property empire collapsed in 1974. Page 15

Cubans misinformed

Cubans captured by UNITA in the Angola civil war were told before leaving that they would be fighting against foreign invaders. Page 6

Nixon man fined

Mr Ralph Newman, a literary scholar, was fined \$10,000 (£3,000) in Chicago yesterday for making a false statement in connection with Mr Nixon's tax. Page 7

Troops run trains

The Spanish Government last night called out specially trained Army personnel to operate some of Madrid's strike-hit underground trains. Page 3

NCB puts £250m plan to Mr Benn

Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, is studying a confidential plan by the National Coal Board, designed to save £250m in fuel imports. It involves persuading generating authorities to increase the coal used at several power stations. Page 15

Strike curb: Leaders of the largest steel union are to take steps to reduce unofficial strikes as a good-will gesture

Student hardship: Many mature students find it impossible to live on their grants without difficulty, and without their families suffering hardship. The National Union of Students says. Page 2

Paris: President Giscard reaffirms his support for a free press and warns journalists about pressure groups

Washington: US columnist says that Mr Reagan's inept campaigning is proving to be a help to President Ford. Page 6

Rhodesia: Longest session of talks so far is held between Mr Smith and Mr Joshua Nkomo

Page 3

Leader, page 13

Letters: on the right to work from Mr Robert Moss; on the Diplomatic Service from Lord Pritchard and Mr Rupert Evans

HOME NEWS

Mature students often live in poverty, union tells ministry

By Our Education Correspondent

Many students aged 25 and over are living below the poverty line, the National Union of Students says in a memorandum to the Department of Education and Science, published today.

"Many mature students with families, often running two homes and committed to a higher level of expenditure than the average student, cannot live on the present level of grant without extreme difficulty and without putting their families at risk," it says.

Mr Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, said: "We had a very extreme case recently of one of the Department of Education and Science's own mature state scholarship holders who was forced to live in a rooming accommodation so as to have enough to provide for his wife and family. He was finally forced to drop out of his course, suffering from malnutrition."

"That student was not in receipt of a mature student allowance because he just failed to earn the requisite amount in the years preceding the start of his course."

Mr Clarke said the present requirement that students should have earned a quarter more than the total grant would continue to penalize some mature students, and should be stopped.

The union also calls for an improvement in the rate of grant for students with two homes. It says the present grant of £4.47 a week is deflatory. It is meant not merely to cover the cost of renting the second home but also the cost of food and household essentials.

"The families of mature students are living considerably below the poverty line, and yet, because the parent is a student, there is no way in which family income supplements may be obtained." The union says students are also unable to claim rent allowance.

The NUS asks the department to copy the example of the training opportunities scheme, administered by the Department of Employment. Under that scheme a person aged over 20, without dependants and living away from home, has a grant of £14.65 a week and is given board and lodgings free or an allowance to cover them, as well as other benefits.

The department is also taken to task over its treatment of students who have dependants, such as parents. In almost every case, the union says, the allowances paid to students' dependants are less than the child allowances paid by the Supplementary Benefits Commission. The union also asks the department to reduce the age of independence for students from 25 to 21 as a first step towards abolishing the means test.

Servicing of electrical goods still faulty

By Our Consumer Affairs Correspondent

In spite of the introduction of a voluntary code of practice by manufacturers the servicing of domestic electrical appliances is no better than a year ago, according to Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine. The January edition says that new machines are not proving trouble-free, either.

That depressing picture has been drawn nine months after the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances (Amdea), announced its code of conduct. It was devised in conjunction with the Office of Fair Trading, and aimed at providing speedy, efficient and effective servicing at a reasonable cost.

Which? concludes that, in general, machines are not being built to be more reliable, and the quality of service the consumer can expect does not appear to be moving any nearer to Amdea standards. The magazine adds that the most reliable machines are not necessarily the most expensive.

Furthermore, the manufacturers who produce the most fault-prone appliances do not always compensate by providing the best after-sales service. Servicing is more expensive than 12 months ago, and repairs take longer. Electricity boards were slightly less slow with repairs (to cookers) than gas boards, but were more expensive.



George Burns and Walter Matthau, the American comedians, with "the two Jacks", London buskers, after a reception yesterday to launch their new film, "The Sunshine Boys".

Judge asks ministry to reconsider bed refusal

Judge Bush at Birmin

Crown Court yesterday the Department of Health reconsider its refusal of a maximum security hospital for Martin Rodway, aged 18, regarded as a dangerous autistic. He directed that late, department still refused to justify the decision to his court next week.

He said it was clearly a her where Mr Rodway should be sent to a maximum security hospital. "On the evidence, regard him to be a danger any lesser course is taking," he said.

Mr Rodway, of Hawker Dale Castle Vale, Birmingham, admitted putting a fatal dose of sodium cyanide in the afternoon tea at the factory where he worked as a painter. Few people, including his father, law, were detained in hospital after tasting it.

Dr William Canning, a Hospital Officer psychiatrist, said that J. Garcia Rodriguez, a psychiatrist sent by the Department of Health to examine Mr Rodway, had agreed with him and another psychiatrist in their diagnosis, but not with their conclusion about the need for security.

"That does not alter my view at all," Dr Canning said. "He has committed a most dangerous act and I have no evidence that he will not commit such an act again."

The judge adjourned the case for a week for the department to reconsider.

He ordered that, if it was still not prepared to make a maximum security place available, Dr Rodriguez should be in court to give evidence.

Typhoid confirmed

A Pakistani aged 30, from Accrington, who was taken ill on returning to England from a five-month stay in his native country has typhoid, it was confirmed at Blackburn yesterday. His condition is satisfactory.

Waterloo line reopens

The Underground line between Waterloo and the City of London reopens on Monday after being closed for seven weeks because of flood damage.

QE2 passengers fly in

One hundred and sixteen passengers from the QE2, which hit a reef last week in the Bahamas, arrived at Heathrow yesterday. The ship docked for repairs at Norfolk, Virginia, and is expected to sail on to their destination, New York, by rail.

British could eat well for £2 a week, magazine says

The British could live well and cheaply on a diet of liver, cheese, raw cabbage, wholemeal bread and water, according to today's issue of Which? magazine, published by the Consumers' Association.

Canned pilchards, curries, and black treacle instead of sugar could add variety for little more than the £2 a week the basic diet would cost.

"Eating cheaply might mean giving up one or two of your favourite foods," the magazine suggests.

"But it doesn't mean that you will live on potatoes and skimmed milk for the rest of your life". For the seven essential nutrients, protein, iron, calcium, and the vitamins B1, B2, C, and niacin, can all be found cheaply in some quite unusual foods.

The average family spends about £4 a week on food for each member, the magazine says, but that cost can be almost halved if the right diet is followed.

Stews and soups with lentils, dried and split peas or baricot beans, brewer's yeast, beef extract, canned pilchards, kidney, eggs and cheese are all cheap and nutritious. Even cornflakes are suitable, provided they are fortified with vitamins.

Britons often eat too much, the magazine says, and some doctors think an excess of animal fat and sugar is a factor in heart and digestive diseases. Cutting out cream and confectionery could be good for economy and health, while cheap cuts of meat are just as nutritious as best steaks.

Unions continue talks on rail cash cut

By Our Labour Staff

Leaders of the three main railway unions, worried by the threat of widespread closures in British Rail's network, continued their talks over the future of their industry yesterday when they met BR representatives.

The unions have been protesting over the Government's intention to reduce investment in the industry and have forecast that the network might be reduced from 11,000 to 4,000 miles. The ministry, however, says it has no such plans.

When the Government proposals are made known, probably about Easter, the unions may well have participated in the joint Railway Productivity Steering Group set up by British Rail in 1974 to examine ways of improving efficiency in the industry.

Taxation blamed for reduced tree planting

By Our Political Staff

The national stock of trees is diminishing at an alarming rate and the Government's taxation policy bears much of the blame, Mr Michael Jopling, the Conservative spokesman on agriculture, suggested in a speech in Liverpool yesterday.

Dutch elm disease had killed more than 6,500,000 trees in the south of England alone, but taxation measures had greatly reduced tree planting.

A survey published last June had indicated that private foresters had abandoned, postponed or curtailed nine tenths of planned plantings, three fifths of them had named the capital transfer tax and fears of a wealth tax as the main reasons for reducing their investment.

He added: "Our reliance on imported timber makes it the third most costly article on our import bill. Last year timber from abroad cost £2,000m."

Prisoner found hanged

Royston Hopkin Jones, aged 33, serving 30 months' jail for burglary and theft, was found hanging in his cell at Swansea prison yesterday.

New house finance move possible

By John Young

Planning Reporter

By about the middle of the year the Government hopes to have completed and published a comprehensive review of housing finance in Britain. At worst it will do no more than state the obvious; at best it could provide the basis for a new approach to a subject beset by ideological prejudice.

The gradual disappearance of the private landlord has caused a growing polarization between those who can afford to become owner-occupiers and those forced to rely on hard-pressed local authorities for housing.

Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, and Mr Fresson, Minister for Housing and Construction, have repeatedly deplored that fact and have emphasized the need for a "third arm" in the provision of housing.

Their main step towards that was the Housing Act, 1974, a genuinely two-party piece of legislation, because its main provisions were drafted by the Conservative Government and revived almost intact after Labour came to power.

The Act has caused some stumbling among councils, mainly because of section 105, which requires government approval of expenditure on cou-

verting and improving older houses. But its main purpose was to revitalize housing associations and to increase funds available in grants and loans from the Housing Corporation.

Up to a point it has worked well, but many people in what is widely referred to as the voluntary housing movement think more is needed.

Mr Kenneth Walker, director of the United Housing Associations Trust, which acquires land and borrows money on behalf of a group of associations, advocates much closer links between the Government, the associations, building

societies, banks and finance houses and even the formerly powerful but now struggling property developers.

Mr Walker emphasizes that he is not trying to get the developers out of trouble. But he believes that, for instance, a group of associations could join forces with a property company to redevelop a site for mixed housing and commercial purposes.

The cost of the housing would be met partly by grants and partly by loans, either from banks or from the Housing Corporation.

Leading article, page 13

Tied-cottage plan deplored

By Our Agricultural Correspondent

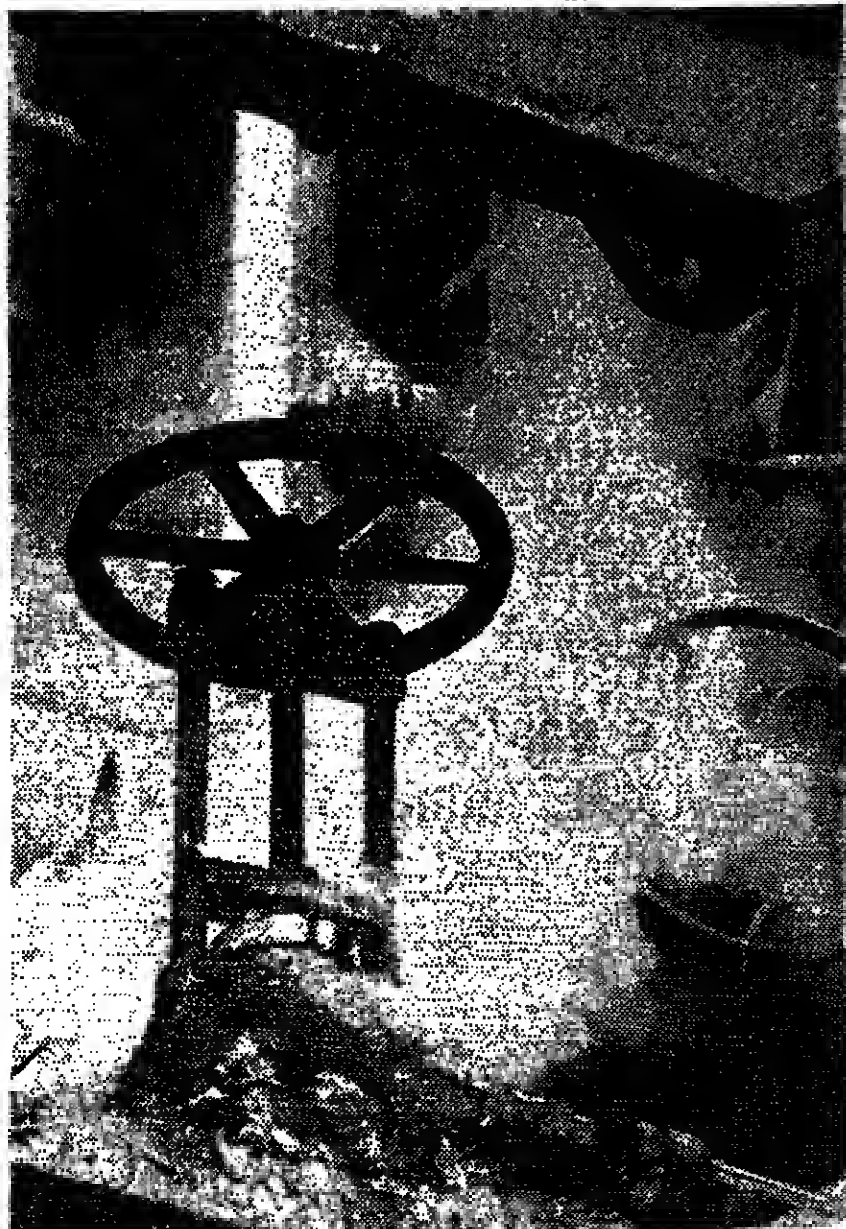
Farmers contributed assets worth £900m to the national stock of houses, Mr George Innes-Lillington, a Crown Estates Commissioner, told delegates at the Oxford Farming Conference yesterday. The Government's decision to abolish the tied cottage was

employees and agricultural people, and are maintained by farmers at no cost to the state, he said. Abolition of tied cottages would push farm workers into council houses, which were let at a loss.

Can the tiny number of those evicted, whether by agreement or not, really merit the dogmatic thinking at the back of the measure? he asked. The decision to abolish tied cottages was, he said, "a mistake."

More than 90,000 houses are occupied by farmers, their

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Department of Energy.

HOME NEWS

Vary defendants now little of appeal safeguard

After Evans
Affairs Correspondent
has defendants in a survey
by two leading academics
book published today knew
about the safeguard of
final appeal proceedings.
They were apparently seri-
ously underinformed by their
advisers, and very seldom
informed to exercise their
rights. Yet nearly all
tried in the higher courts
are getting legal aid.
The book, based on criminal
cases begun in the adult courts
of Sheffield over a six-month
period, is by Dr A. E. Bottoms,
Director of the Centre for
Criminological Studies at Shef-
field University, and Professor
J. D. McClean, Professor of
Law there.
They say that concern, fortu-
nately, exists within the legal
profession about the failure in
the giving of advice and assist-

ance. An unofficial group of
practitioners, academics and
civil servants met to consider
the question under the lead-
ership of the late Mr Justice
Bevan. The result was an official
document on appeal procedures,
which drew attention to the
rule of legal aid.
The book also more generally
blames the criminal justice
system for not properly inform-
ing defendants of their rights.
Where duty solicitor schemes
existed they helped to inform
defendants of their rights, but
they would cover the whole
country. "There seems a
real need to increase the pro-
vision of information to defend-
ants about the courts and their
procedures".
Even a well informed defend-
ant might plead guilty although
believing himself to be inno-
cent. The book cites the rule of
sentencing practice allowing
lower sentences for guilty
pleas. While the rule had un-
doubted advantages, the possi-
bility that it might encourage
spurious pleas raised a strong
case for its abolition.
The suggestion that guilty
pleas should be carefully
examined by the court before
being accepted would at least
go some way to mitigate any
possible malpractices in the
way in which such pleas were
encouraged by the police.

Defendants in the Criminal Process
(A. E. Bottoms and J. D. McClean,
Routledge & Kegan Paul, 57.30).

4 children and family of three die in fires

Four children died in a fire
at a house in Rucklidge
Avenue, Willesden, north Lon-
don, yesterday.
They were Joyce, aged eight,
Eric, aged five, Paul, aged four,
and Sylvia, aged nine months,
whose parents are Mr and Mrs
George Koporo, who came from
Nigeria.
A neighbour said she found
Mrs Koporo in the street
screaming for help. With her
was her son, George, aged
three. Neighbours and passers-
by tried to get in but flames
barred them back.
When the fire started Mrs
Koporo and George were on
the ground floor. The other
children were in the first
floor.
In the Tuebrook suburb of
Liverpool early yesterday Mr
George Martin, his wife, Marie,
and their baby daughter died
in a fire in a terrace house in
Antrim Street. A police officer
said it was thought that they
were overcome by smoke.
Police officers searched for a
woman, aged 81, missing after
a fire at Fingringhoe Hall, near
Colchester yesterday.
Firemen continued their
search of the Brighton flat, known
as the Royal Hotel, where
four residents died on
Tuesday. Two others who had
booked a room were unaccount-
ed for, but the belief was
growing that they were not in
the building. The police named
a third victim yesterday. A
woman is still unidentified.



An RAF helicopter plugging gaps in the protective wall at Breydon Water, Norfolk, after the storms.

Coincidence over tax papers, QC says

J. Murphy and Sons Ltd, the
construction company which is
alleged to have been part of
a conspiracy said to have de-
frauded the Inland Revenue of
more than £1.4m, suffered be-
cause of a coincidence during
the investigation into its affairs.
It was stated yesterday by
Mr John Leonard, QC, for the
company, at the Central
Criminal Court, said that while
tax officers were visiting the
company in January, 1973, some
of the labour time sheets were
brought into the office.
The Inland Revenue needed
them to complete its inquiry
into a tax officer "borrowed"
them, promising to return them
on his next visit.
Mr Leonard said that three
days before that visit the com-
pany's finance director com-
plained to the Inland Revenue
about the "incomplete methods"
used to obtain the sheets and
threatened to approach the local
MP.
After the Inland Revenue
visit the company wrote to say
that many of its documents had
been destroyed by flooding.
The prosecution has said that
Murphy employees
"dressed up" as subcontractors
in order to avoid PAYE. Three
of the nine defendants are
senior executives.
It is alleged to have de-
frauded the Inland Revenue are
J. Murphy and Sons Ltd of
Highbury Corner, London, and
J. M. Pilling Ltd, same address.
Mr James Connolly, QC, repre-
sented the defendant com-
panies, said during yesterday's
hearing that some press reports
had made an incorrect refer-
ence to a figure of £489,525.
That figure, which was given
by Mr Leonard in his opening
speech, did not refer to the
gross tax return for the two
years in question, as the reports
stated. In fact, it referred to a
wage bill set out in quarterly returns
for various workers.
The Murphy companies had
paid about £10m a year in
corporation tax, PAYE and other
tax not connected with the
purported fraud.
The trial continues today.

Storm victims may get aid

Mr Crosland, Secretary of
State for the Environment, said
yesterday that a relief fund
for victims of last week's floods
and gales was opened to public
subscription. The Government
might make a contribution.
"In deciding whether to do
so and what amount would be
appropriate consideration would
be given to the extent of the
damage, the total value of
claims on the fund, and the
amount of money subscribed by
the general public and by other
local and public authorities".
Mr Crosland said in a state-
ment that existing legislation
allowed councils to make grants
or loans to people affected by
emergencies such as flooding.
The situation at the weekend
was exceptional, with sea levels
at least as high as those reached
in the 1953 flood disaster. He
had been impressed by the way
essential services dealt with the
immediate problems.

Government publicity sought on benefits

By Pat Healy
Social Services
Correspondent
Disability groups yesterday
demanded more government
promotion of the new invalidity
pension after the disclosure that
nearly half those eligible have
failed to claim. It also became
clear yesterday that there have
been too few applications for
mobility help that all age groups
could be brought in this year,
instead of over three years.
The two new benefits, the
non-contributory invalidity pen-
sion and the mobility allowance,
were heralded as an important
advance in provision for the
disabled. The invalidity pension
was expected to help 220,000
people, and 100,000 people who
were previously excluded from
any help with mobility were
estimated to be eligible for the
mobility allowance. In fact,
the allowance, introduced on
January 1, is being paid to
3,565 people aged between 15
and 25.
Professor Peter Townsend,
chairman of the Disability Alli-
ance, which represents more
than 25 disability organizations,
said yesterday that the figures
were very disturbing.
Mr Peter Large, parliament-
ary spokesman of the Disable-
ment Income Group, yesterday
called for continuous publicity
to increase the number of appli-
cations.

WEST EUROPE

Giscard warning on the influence of pressure groups

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 7
On two occasions within 48
hours, President Giscard
has insisted on his
Government's attachment to the
"liberal rule" in matters of
press and information. He has
also said that the reform of the
state radio and television, now
one year old, has been "very
positive".
"I think it is independent
of pressure groups", he empha-
sized in an interview last night.
"That is to say, I do not think
they are themselves. I will
say this or that because a pres-
sure group asks me to do so.
On the other hand, you can be
influenced by pressure groups
because they are very skilled.
They spread information or
create an atmosphere, and from
time to time we perceive the
echo of campaigns which in fact
reach as far as information".
The President was referring to
criticism of alleged left-wing
bias by the autonomous tele-
vision channel.
Asked whether he had ever
had occasion to regret the first
dom he wished to give radio
and television the President re-
plied: "Never". But he ad-
mitted that the standpoint of
television news broadcasts had
sometimes made the task of the
Government more difficult for
instance, over the affair of Mme
Françoise Clastre, the French
ethnologist who has now been
a prisoner of Chad guerrillas
for nearly two years.
But that was the price of
freedom. "Freedom of infor-
mation sometimes creates prob-
lems for us. I know that in-
formation on radio and tele-
vision in this country is inde-
pendent. That is to say, one
knows that the French press
information which can embarrass
the course of French policy.
But abroad, one does not always
know it. And abroad the idea
is that the media are more or
less controlled.
For instance, the Chadian
Government was convinced that
some documents concerning the
Clastre affair had been broad-
cast with the French Govern-
ment's approval.
President Pompidou at a
press conference in 1972 had
affirmed that "whether one
wishes it or not, a television
journalist is not a journalist
like any other. He has addi-
tional responsibilities. Whether
one likes it or not, television is
regarded as the voice of France
both by Frenchmen and by
foreigners. This calls for a
certain restraint".
For President Giscard
d'Estaing, television journalists
are journalists like any others,
who must have the same inde-
pendence, and he subject to
the same rule of objectivity as
other journalists.
So long as people could say
that television expressed the
views of the Government, it
could not be judged. But now
that it was independent, he
judged it, and he sometimes
said to himself: "Well, this
presentation of the facts is not
quite in accordance with what
I imagined to be the truth".
The President has also
expressed the wish that both
the press and radio and tele-
vision should follow rather
more the Anglo-Saxon canonic
of separating news from com-
ment. Until his predecessors
it was a regular reader of one
or two English language news-
papers, and he was obviously
drawing from personal experi-
ence.
He expressed the wish
that the French press should
devote more coverage to world
events, and be encouraged to
indulge in an examination of
the ethics of journalism.

EEC's deal with Tunisia ends source of friction

From David Cross
Brussels, Jan 7
Tunisia today became the
first Arab country to conclude
a new trade, aid and coopera-
tion deal with the European
Community.
The completion of negotia-
tions at dawn removed one of
the main sources of friction
between the Community and
the Arab world. The conclu-
sion of a similar agreement
with Israel last summer cast a
shadow over the Community's
earlier attempts to improve its
relations with Arab countries
bordering the Mediterranean.
The most significant element
for the Tunisians to the new
deal is the Community's agree-
ment to offer preferential
access for vital Tunisian agri-
cultural products like wine and
olive oil. Both will be allowed
into the Community at special
cut-rate tariffs.
The Tunisians have also
been promised financial aid
totaling 95m units of account
(£50m) in grants and loans
over the next five years.
Moreover, Tunisian nationals
working in the Community will
receive improved social secu-
rity benefits.
The agreement, which still
has to be ratified by both
sides, is the third element in
the Community's plans for the
creation of a vast free trade
area spanning about a dozen
Mediterranean countries. In
addition to the agreement with
Israel, the Community com-
pleted negotiations with Malta
for an improved preferential
trade and aid deal a fortnight
ago.
Negotiations with Morocco
and Algeria are to resume
within the next few days in
the hope that similar agree-
ments can be concluded this
month. As talks with the plus
Maghreb countries have been
proceeding at about the same
tempo, the Community hopes
the agreement with the Tunisi-
ans will provide a timely pre-
cedent for the conclusion of
negotiations with the two
Arab neighbours later this
month.

Scots claim backing from Labour

From a Staff Reporter
Glasgow
The breakaway Scottish
Labour Party said in Glasgow
yesterday that it had the
official party in Scotland was
melting away. It presented Mr
Darius Skeue, former Labour
candidate for Kilmarnock and
Fenwick, as a press confer-
ence, as its latest recruit
from the Scottish executive of
the Labour Party.
Mr Alec Neil, former re-
search officer at Labour Party
headquarters in Glasgow, who
resigned to help in founding
the new party, was appointed
full-time secretary. He said re-
cruitment would start immedi-
ately and the inaugural meet-
ing would be held in Glasgow
on January 18. Pledges of sup-
port had come from several
constituency officials and local
government members. Some
members would go as delegates
to the official party conference
in March and he expected fur-
ther support would emerge
then.
"The point is that support
for the Labour Party as it is in
Scotland is just melting away,"
he said.
Mr David McMullan, an En-
gineering Workers official and
the new party's industrial
organiser, said they had been
assured by two hundred mem-
bers among shop stewards.
Yesterday's developments
drew a sharp response from
official party headquarters in
Glasgow. Mr James McGrandle,
interim secretary of the council,
local area chief of the party,
warned Mr Skeue that his
presence at the next executive
meeting would be highly un-
ethical. In a letter to him, Mr
McGrandle accused Mr Skeue of
surrendering to the Labour
Party in Scotland is clearly
worried about the emergence
of this new socialist group.
The SLP wants to see more
control over Scottish industry
and finance resting in Scotland
and is fiercely opposed to the
Government's plans for de-
volution. Significantly, the new
party will be officially launched
on the day that Mr Ross, Sec-
retary of State for Scotland,
launches the official party's
publicity campaign promoting
the devolution White Paper.

Town councillor accused in cafe fire case

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Jan 7
A second man has been
arrested in connexion with last
week's cafe fire in La Lou-
viere, Belgium.
He is Mr Gilbert Vande-
voorde, the town councillor
responsible for public utilities.
Like the owner of the cafe in
which 15 young people died
during a New Year's Eve party,
he has been charged with men-
tal anguish and causing bodily
harm through negligence.
The examining magistrate
apparently suspects Mr Vande-
voorde of having turned a
blind eye to reports from the
interior fire chief about the lack
of adequate safety precautions
in the cafe.
Brussels, Jan 7.—A boy of 11
died and three people were in-
jured in a fire in a cafe at
Seraing, near Liege, today.—AP.

Norwegians to block oil ports

Stavanger, Jan 7.—Fishermen
manning 250 Norwegian North
Sea trawlers threatened today
to blockade Norwegian oil ports
to press demands for govern-
ment subsidies and compensa-
tion for the effects of oil drill-
ing.
Mr Elias Haakonsen, leader
of the fishermen's action com-
mittee, said fishermen
sought compensation for
damage to gear caused by oil
operations.

Minister scorns idea of a federal system

By Our Political Staff
Mr Gerald Fowler, Minister
of State, Privy Council Office,
yesterday scolded the idea of
introducing a federal system of
government in the United King-
dom as part of the devolution
package.
Speaking at Strathclyde Uni-
versity, Mr Fowler, who, with
Mr Short, Lord President of the
Council, was the leading mini-
sterial architect of the devolu-
tion proposals, said an imme-
diate difficulty was that Eng-
land had 84 per cent of the
population of the United King-
dom, and an existing federation
contained elements of "such
extraordinary disparity as would
result from a federation of the
four constituent countries of the
United Kingdom".
He argued that a federal
system would mean that the
amount of money available for
economic adjustment between
the richer and poorer regions
would be much reduced.

Community sets precedent by Soames visit

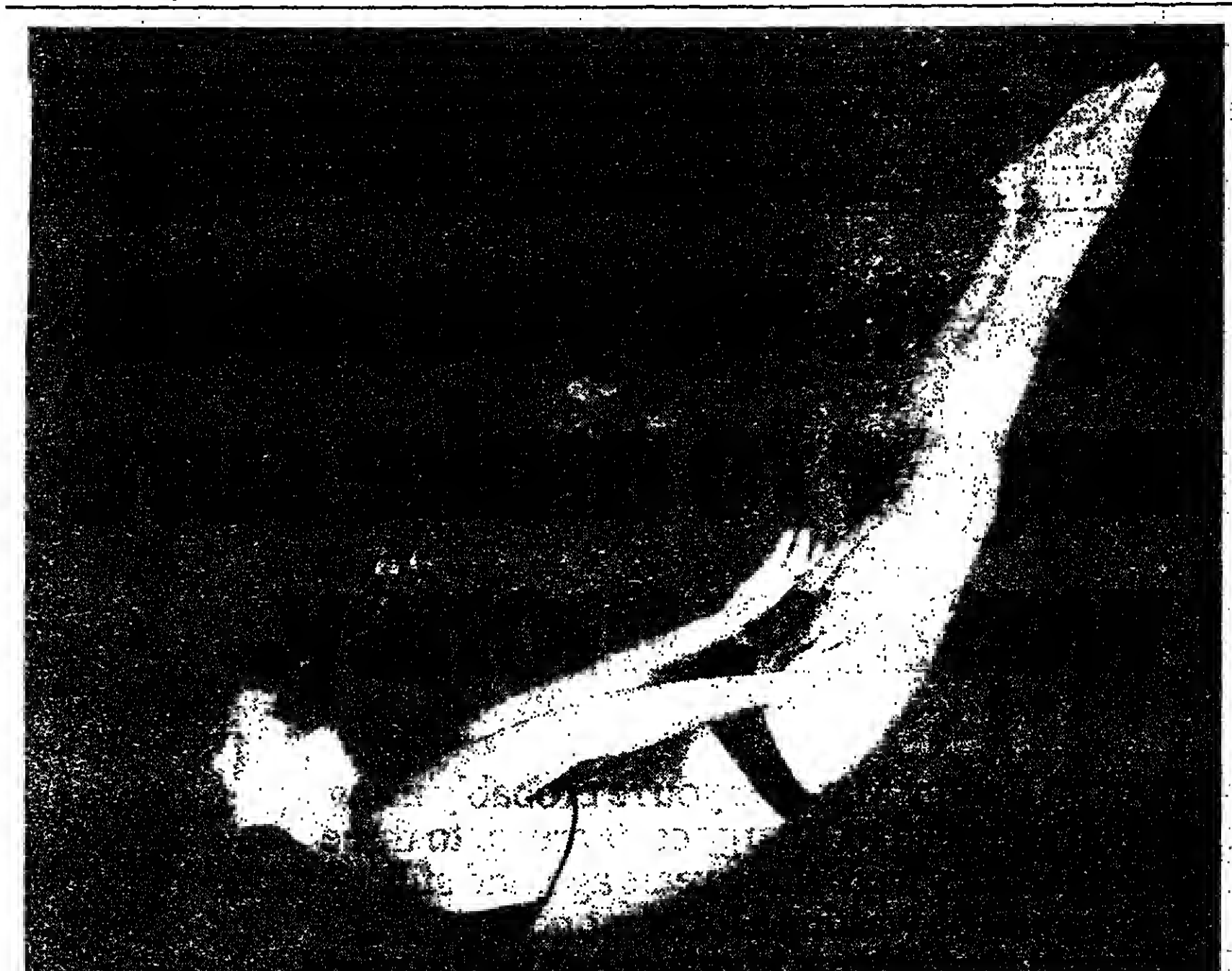
From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, Jan 7
Sir Christopher Soames, the
European Commissioner for
External Affairs, today began
the first visit by a member of
the EEC's executive to an East
European country. Only three
days after his return from two
months' sick leave, he left
Brussels for a three-day visit
to Bucharest.
The ostensible purpose for
his visit, which was at the in-
vitation of the Romanian As-
sociation of International Law
and International Relations,
but during his stay he is
expected to have talks with
Government leaders as well.
Romania, in common with
other Comecon countries, still
does not officially recognize
the European Community.
However, it has always made it
clear that it would welcome
closer relations and for the
past couple of years has taken
advantage of the Community's
generalized preference scheme
designed to encourage the in-
dustrialization of developing
countries.

French mission to former colony

Paris, Jan 7.—M Robert
Galley, Minister of Supply, is
to lead a French mission to
Chad to draft a cooperation
programme with the former
colony.—Agence France-Press.

Kidnapped record company chief found by police

Paris, Jan 7.—M Louis Hazan,
a wealthy recording company
executive who was kidnapped
on New Year's Eve, was found
unharmed today in a house in
a village near Chartres, south-
west of Paris.
He was found alone and tied
up in the house by police from
Versailles who had joined in
the search for him.
Two members of the kidnap-
ping gang who had been manag-
ing M Hazan ran from the
house across fields and escaped,
the police said.
Three suspected members of
the gang were captured earlier
and the ransom of 15m francs
(\$1.6m) was never paid in line
with a new tough police adop-
ted by the Ministry of Interior
in dealing with those who seize
hostages.
The Versailles police immedi-
ately notified headquarters in
Paris of M Hazan's safety and
officers telephoned Mme Hazan
at their home.
At the Hazan apartment in a
luxurious quarter of Paris,
family friend told reporters:
"We have learned the good
news. Mme Hazan is waiting
for her husband".
The kidnapping gang earlier
today offered to exchange M
Hazan for two men captured
by the police last night.
The police not only turned
down the exchange offer but
proceeded to arrest a third sus-
pected kidnapper this morning.
They said their tough stand was
the result of a decision by the
Ministry of the Interior that
police under no circumstances
would allow the payment of the
ransom demanded.—AP.



Costs take a dive

More than ever before, owners and
operators of indoor swimming baths
are faced by rising energy prices with
increasing costs for maintaining
comfortable temperatures for
swimmers. If pool temperatures are
reduced, attendances fall. If the
heating and ventilating system is
switched off when the pool is
unoccupied, the resultant
condensation can cause
deterioration of the building
fabric.

How to save energy and money

Realising the problems, engineers in
the Electricity Boards pursued the
idea of applying heat recovery
systems to swimming pools. In
particular, heat pumps had already

been used in Germany to produce
worthwhile savings. Benefiting from
this experience, Electricity Boards
have built up considerable expertise,
and today heat pumps are a proven
method of cutting energy costs.

Basically, heat pumps are
refrigeration machines arranged to
operate as heat extractors. In an
indoor pool, the warm moisture-
laden exhaust air contains a great deal
of heat which is extracted by the heat
pump and transferred at an increased
temperature to heat the ventilation
air, pool water and shower water
simultaneously.

What does it cost?

The extra equipment needed
increases the capital costs of the
mechanical and electrical services for

a new pool by some 15-20% — but a
reduction in the running costs of
some 50% could be achieved. This
means that a typical energy cost of
£60 per year to heat each square
metre of pool surface could be
reduced to £30. Savings of this order
allow a payback of the extra capital
costs in two or three years. Thereafter
these savings will continue to be
made. Not only of money, but of the
nation's energy.

Existing pools can also benefit
from heat recovery, provided they are
heated and mechanically ventilated.
The capital costs of the heat recovery
equipment will be higher than those
for a new pool, but similar savings can
be achieved.

Another example of how
electricity is helping to cut costs and
conserve our valuable resources.

Electricity does the nation a power of good



The Electricity Council, England and Wales

WEST EUROPE

Troops sent in to get strikebound Madrid Metro working

Madrid, Jan 7.—The Spanish Army began running the Madrid Metro, the underground railway system, tonight as the Government moved gingerly to break a strike that is challenging the new regime's authority.

Fearing a possible labour backlash, the Government refrained from the moment, however, from conscripting the Metro strikers into the Army.

Specialist train troops got the first train moving at 6.45 pm after a day that had seen the worst traffic jams in Madrid's history.

The uniformed Army crews, railway engineers, first tested their skills with empty trains for an hour before admitting passengers free. Police travelled in the first carriages to leave.

Our Madrid Correspondent writes: The strike crippled city and industrial life today.

Police used tear gas to break up a demonstration, and in the early hours of the morning, evicted some 2,000 strikers, including 200 women, who had been staging a sit-in in the Church of Our Lady of Luján.

Many of the strikers then went to the Church of San Federico near by and the police again dispersed them, using batons and tear gas. No arrests were reported, but it was believed several people were injured.

It is not known whether the police obtained the permission of the ecclesiastical authorities before entering the churches. Permission is needed under the Concordat which regulates church-state relations.

The municipal authorities laid on extra buses to take workers to factories in the industrial suburbs. According to one estimate, the buses managed to transport 800,000 of the two million people who use the Metro.

Nevertheless, thousands of people were unable to get to work, as streets were clogged with slow-moving traffic. Taxis did good business. There were

several angry scenes, when people tried to hail ordinary cars with plenty of room for passengers, but most drivers refused to stop and drove on.

Some people walked to work. The strikers are in a defiant mood as they have shown by their action and demonstrations.

The Government is anxious, according to reliable sources, not to appear soft, and give in; but it does not want to take repressive action and lose the confidence of workers, particularly after the Government has promised to introduce democracy eventually.

The strikers' demands became clearer today. They want their working week to be reduced from 44 hours to 40, an immediate special bonus of £125, and an increase of about £50 in their monthly wage.

Their present monthly wage is about £120.

Officials from the Metro company were meeting all day to try to find a way of solving the strike, which if it continues could have severe repercussions on industry in the capital.

Meanwhile, in Barcelona, Father Luis Maria Xirriach, who was one of the candidates for last year's Nobel Peace Prize, was arrested outside the city's Model Prison for leading a demonstration for an amnesty.

Father Xirriach has repeatedly been on hunger strike for an amnesty and has spent several years in prison.

His latest strike in the Montserrat Abbey near Barcelona ended in November. Since then he and other people have been congregating outside the prison demanding an amnesty. The police dispersed about 400 people who were demonstrating along with the priest.

Small groups of extreme right-wingers have also been parading near the prison. This morning some of them carried iron bars disguised in newspapers. They also carried placards protesting against any idea of an amnesty.

'Real convergence' of EEC policies urged

Continued from page 1

monetary union, Mr Tindemans thinks, would be to tighten the "collective discipline" of the so-called "snake" system, whereby six of the Community's currencies are confined within a narrow band of fluctuation.

To make it more difficult for countries to leave the "snake", as France did some time ago, participants would be required to "undertake to withdraw from it only in cases of manifest crisis" as established by a joint decision.

To make it easier for weaker currencies to stay in the "snake", the "machinery for short and medium-term support between members" of the "snake" must be made automatic and considerably strengthened, Mr Tindemans says. This would mean creating the embryo of a European central bank and some pooling of reserves.

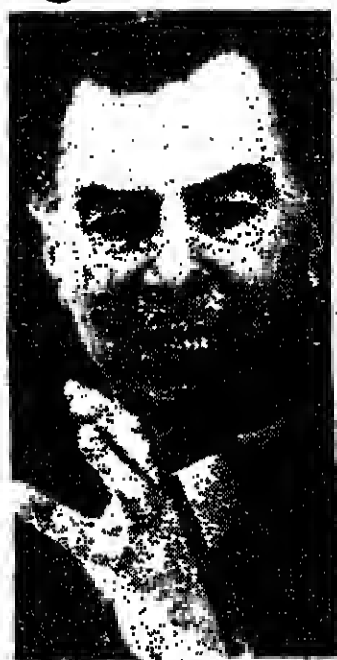
Those countries in the "snake" must gradually abolish the remaining obstacles in the free movement of capital between them. Mr Tindemans says that "measures must be worked out" to help Britain, Ireland and Italy to join the "snake", but he is not very specific about what form they should take.

He makes clear, however, that the three weak countries should be involved in all discussions concerning the development of the "snake" system and that they must share and work jointly with their colleagues for "a real convergence of economic and monetary policies".

In foreign policy, Mr Tindemans attaches particular importance to relations with the developing world. At international negotiations, such as those in Paris concerning energy and raw materials, EEC members must "in every case place the primary interest of joint action above their divergent opinions and interests".

Mr Tindemans proposes that member states should strengthen such joint action "by gradually transferring to the Community a substantial part of national appropriations intended for development co-operation".

On security, Mr Tindemans says that the Nine should continue to coordinate their policies, on détente, and related political, military and economic matters, as they did at the Hel



Mr Tindemans yesterday: 'Snake' system supported.

sinki conference. He believes that in the long run "European union will not be complete until it has drawn up a common defence policy", but he acknowledges that this is not something for the near future because of the sharp divergences of national policy.

As a beginning, however, he recommends regular exchanges of views on defence and security matters and also says that the Nine should "cooperate in the manufacture of armaments with a view to reducing defence costs, and increasing European independence and the competitiveness of its industry". He commends the steps already taken in this direction within the Eurogroup and the Nato alliance.

In a letter to fellow heads of government accompanying his report, Mr Tindemans says that he believes his proposals for European union are realistic and feasible. He says that he has tried to steer a middle course between proposals so modest that they would be "unworthy of our faith in Europe" and schemes so Utopian that they would lose all credibility in the eyes of national governments.

Leading article, page 13

Lisbon denial that escudo is to be devalued

From Michael Knipe

Lisbon, Jan 7

With Portugal's economic plight beginning to make itself felt by way of food shortages in the shops, Dr Rui Vilar, a vice-governor of the Bank of Portugal today discounted the prospect of an imminent devaluation of the escudo.

Answering questions after speaking at a businessmen's lunch, he said that for devaluation to be effective it needed to be accompanied by a package of other measures and Portugal was not prepared for this. "If we devalue we would have to pay more for our imports and as we are not able to increase our exports, devaluation would be a loss for the Portuguese economy".

He added that International Monetary Fund regulations would prevent a special rate of exchange being created for foreign tourists.

However, plans are understood to be in hand for petrol to be made available to tourists at the old price of 1250 escudos (44p) a

litre for the highest grade instead of 1750.

Declaring his optimism that Portugal would overcome its economic difficulties, Dr Vilar said that as far as he knew no country had ever gone bankrupt.

For the moment, however, Portugal is beginning to suffer the consequences of the spending spree and disruption of production that has occurred over the past 20 months and which has resulted in an acute shortage of foreign exchange.

Housewives in Lisbon are experiencing food shortages and high prices which threaten to become more acute. Meat is increasingly hard to get and some shops are rationing customers to half a kilo (just over 1lb) each. Milk is scarce and butter impossible to obtain.

The Revolutionary Council is reported to be concerned over the way in which both right and left-wing elements may exploit the economic problems.

OVERSEAS

Gunboat's collision with British frigate 'a deliberate attack'

By Robert Fisk

The British frigate Andromeda, and the Icelandic gunboat Thor collided yesterday 40 miles off the east coast of Iceland. In the House of Commons, Mr Roy Mason, the Minister of Defence, said that the Thor boled herself by trying to collide with the Andromeda. The Icelanders accused the Andromeda of ramming the Thor.

According to Mr Mason, who apparently regards the incident as a deliberate attack on a British ship without regard for life, the Thor had tried only 10 minutes before to force the Andromeda against a trawler.

So adamant was the Royal Navy yesterday that it was not to blame for the collision that the Ministry of Defence sent radio photographs of the incident to most national newspapers in London. An official at the ministry added that the Andromeda's sides are made of steel only 1in thick.

According to Mr Mason, the Andromeda was on a steady course at 12.20 yesterday after-

noon and was trying to prevent the Thor from cutting the wires of the trawler Fortia.

"Without warning", he said, "Thor altered course violently to starboard and rammed Andromeda's port quarter. Ten minutes earlier Thor and Andromeda were passing close by the trawler Ross Resolution at 20 knots when Thor deliberately altered course in an attempt to force Andromeda onto the Ross Resolution."

As a result of the collision, Mr Mason said, the frigate suffered superficial damage. Mr Mason's account is partly borne out by the evidence of a Reuters correspondent on board the Andromeda. He reported that the frigate was maintaining a steady speed and course when the Thor moved towards her.

The Andromeda, he said, sounded six short blasts on her horn—the signal meaning "You are not taking sufficient action to avoid collision"—and repeated the warning three times. The Andromeda received a 12ft dent in the hull.

The Icelandic coastguard, however, said yesterday that the Andromeda had rammed the Thor and had done so "in the traditional way"—by oversteering the gunboat and suddenly changing course while alongside.

The coastguard claimed that the incident seemed to be part of a concentrated effort to ram patrol boats, and complained that earlier in the day the British frigate Najad had repeatedly tried to ram another unboated trawler.

Captain Gunnar Olafsson of the Thor reported that the Najad "had gone wild" in an attempt to sink his ship. Captain Helgi Halverson of the Thor, well known in Britain for his willingness to give television interviews about the Royal Navy's activities in Icelandic waters, said that only one British trawler was fishing in the area at the time.

The Foreign Office last night instructed Mr Kenyon East, the British Ambassador in Reykjavik, to make a formal protest to the Icelandic Government about the collision.

When the Yugoslavs were openly saying that the resumption of pro-Soviet activity was encouraged from abroad. The best known of the four is Mr Brkić, former Vice-President of Croatia, who sided with Moscow in 1948, as did the other three, during President Tito's feud with Stalin.

The indictment states that the four had asked Yugoslav exiles in Moscow and Kiev whether the Soviet Army might

intervene in Yugoslavia if such an intervention was sought by someone in Yugoslavia; and that they had maintained links with Yugoslav exiles in Russia and East Europe with the intention of overthrowing the existing system and bringing Yugoslavia under Soviet domination.

The trial is not likely to be held in public; the prosecutor has already asked that it should be in camera, in view of the nature of the charges.

Yugoslavs accused of backing Moscow

From Desha Trevisan

Belgrade, Jan 7

Four Yugoslavs will go on trial next week for attempting to form a clandestine pro-Soviet organization which, according to the prosecution, maintained links with Yugoslav exiles in Moscow and was ready to seek Soviet intervention after President Tito's death. The four were arrested last summer, when the campaign against the Communists was at its height

Mrs Thatcher begins Middle East tour

From Paul Martin

Cairo, Jan 7

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Leader of the Opposition, said on arriving here today on a "fact-finding" visit that the area's problems were the concern of everybody. The esteem in which Egypt holds the Conservative Party in Britain was shown by the prompt interview she was accorded with President Sadat.

As she walked smilingly into Cairo airport terminal with Mr Ismail Fahmy, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, she was given a round of applause by a group which included airport workers and security men. At a hastily convened press conference she welcomed the growing relations between Britain and Egypt, enhanced by the recent visit of President Sadat to London.

During the next two days Mrs Thatcher will have talks with the President and other Egyptian leaders. On Friday she will fly to Damascus to meet President Hafez Assad and complete her on-the-spot look at the two most important "front line" Arab states.

Coming as it does after the postponement of Mr Wilson's scheduled visit to Egypt, her presence here has assumed an added significance, particularly as the Prime Minister's decision to put off his trip, ostensibly because of pressure in parliamentary business, caused a measure of disappointment among diplomatically-conscious Egyptians.

Mrs Thatcher's mission coincides with the beginning of what the Arabs have called "The Year of Palestine", but it is not known whether she will meet any Palestinian

leaders, like Mr Yasser Arafat or his deputies, during her Damascus visit.

Egyptian newspapers noted with satisfaction this morning a statement in Kuwait attributed to Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Opposition energy spokesman, about a Palestine Liberation Organization role in the peace process. Newspapers quoted him as saying that if the Conservatives regained power in Britain they would work for full representation of the PLO in Middle East peace talks.

Although the Egyptians are anxious to foster relations with all western governments, whatever their political flavour, there is no doubt that Conservative stonk is higher than Labour's. The Egyptians, and other Arab governments for that matter, believe that Conservative policy on the Middle East in recent years has been more "even-handed".

Of no less importance, is the "face in face" aspect of Mrs Thatcher's visit. Since she became leader of the Opposition her progress has been followed closely in the Arab world in the belief that she could be Britain's next Prime Minister.

That a woman should hold this post is no small consideration in male-dominated Arab society. Mrs Thatcher touched on this point when she spoke of the importance of "personalities" in dealings between Britain and the countries of the Middle East.

Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative leader, flew back to London today after a week in Jordan at the invitation of King Hussein. He made no statement about his visit.

New York politician accused of corruption

From Peter Stratford

New York, Jan 7

Mr Maurice Nadjari, the brilliant special prosecutor appointed to investigate corruption in New York City, has accused Mr Patrick Cunningham, head of the Democratic committee for New York state, of selling judgeships and other offices.

The judgeships were sold, Mr Nadjari alleged, for either money or property. He also accused Mr Cunningham of having arranged other public and party jobs in exchange for bribes, and on one occasion of having obtained a public position for someone in return for "improper handling of a case in the Bronx criminal court".

Mr Nadjari's accusations are some of the most sweeping yet on the doings of New York politicians. They come based on an attempt by Mr Hugh Carey, the state Governor and a Democrat, to remove Mr Nadjari from office, and they add fuel to the dispute.

Mr Nadjari, a Republican appointed by the state government in Albany to investigate corruption in New York City, resisted Mr Carey's move.

His affidavit accusing Mr Cunningham is designed to support this allegation. It says that last spring, when Mr Cunningham became aware that he was being investigated, "he expressed at the time to another individual his confidence that the special prosecutor would be removed by the governor before the investigation produced adverse results".

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OVERSEAS

US columnist sees ex-governor as President's 'secret weapon'

Mr Reagan's statements help Mr Ford

From James Reston

Washington

The political exhibition season has started in the bitter cold of New Hampshire, and this may be the best thing that has happened to Mr Gerald Ford since he fell into the presidency.

For now the reporters are putting the hard questions to Mr Ronald Reagan, the former Governor of California, when they can get at him, and the more bombastic Ronald talks, the better President Ford looks. He may be the President's best ally and secret weapon.

Somebody asked Mr Reagan at the Lions Club Hall in Mount Vernon, New Hampshire, how he proposed to deal with the Russians.

"I think," he replied, "it's time for us to straighten up and eyeball them, and say, 'hey folks, let's get this back on the track where it's something for something, not all one way'."

And this eyeballing could begin, he added, with the situation in Angola right now, saying to the Russians: "Our, well, let them (the Angolans) fight it out among themselves, or you're going to have us to deal with."

For delicacy of language and precision of policy, this makes Mr Ford's statements on distant and Angola seem almost eloquent and statesmanlike.

Like Ford when Mr Reagan was asked what he would have the United States do if the Russians did not blink or withdraw their support in Angola, he refused to answer.

He did say it was ironic that Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, was continuing to talk about the limitation of strategic nuclear arms, while Moscow was violating the spirit of détente, but when he was asked whether he would break off the strategic arms talks, he ducked the question.

This is precisely the sort of competition Mr Ford badly needed in his race for the Republican presidential nomination. Until Mr Reagan drifted into New Hampshire, the President was the only target in the Republican shooting gallery, and lately he has been getting a press worse than he deserves.

He has been criticized for inconsistency of policy, for lacking leadership and governing by veto, for having a mediocre staff, sniping at his Cabinet, for firing or demoting his best men and replacing them with old Capitol Hill cronies, even for being awkward and incoherent.

In terms of policy and administration, much of this was fair enough, but in personal terms, or so it seems here, much of the criticism was unfair and even vicious.



Mr Ronald Reagan with a gift balloon in New Hampshire.

pull out or be knocked off by Mr Reagan and certainly defeated by the Democrats.

Maybe so, but the guess here is that these winter-book estimates are highly unreliable, and that they overestimate Mr Ford. Once a man begins campaigning seriously for the presidency, as Mr Reagan is now doing, the tests and questions change overnight.

Then, it is no longer whether he is merely attractive or good on television, though these cosmetic qualities still matter, but whether he has the character, knowledge and experience to do the job. Mr Ford may have flunked the test, but from now on Mr Reagan and the Democratic candidates will have to be judged by the same high standards they have plagued every candidate for the White House.

Mr Reagan had an easy ride into the 1976 campaign. He had every right as the former Governor of our most populous state, to challenge an appointed President for his party's nomination, and he rode into the race on the coattails of Time and Newsweek, but his generalities against big government, the Russians, high taxation, welfare chisellers, hushing and other anguishes are too easy and even cheap. —The New York Times News Service.

Nigerians reject Ford letter as 'insult'

Lagos, Jan 7.—Nigeria today published the text of a letter from Angola from President Ford which it described as an insult to the intelligence of African nations and a scorn on the dignity of the black man.

Nigeria's rejection of the letter as overbearing, patronising and insulting, reflects its campaign on behalf of the Soviet-backed Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) on the eve of the Organization of African Unity's summit meeting on the Angolan civil war.

Colonel Joseph Garba, the External Affairs Commissioner, said before leaving for the summit meeting in Addis Ababa that his delegation would lobby other African states to resist United States pressure for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Angola.

The final passage in President Ford's letter to Brigadier Murtala Muhammed, the head of state, appears to have prompted the angry Nigerian reaction.

The passage said the OAU meeting could be important in promoting a quick finish to the Angolan civil war. The United States hoped the OAU would insist on an end to foreign involvement in Angola and bring about negotiations between the rival groups there.

The letter, according to the Nigerian text, also added that if an end to foreign involvement was supported by "other states powers", the United States would urge South Africa to withdraw.

"We cannot, however, stand idly by if the Soviet and Cuban intervention persists," the letter was quoted as saying.

The Nigerian reply declared: "Gone are the days when Africa will ever bow to the threat of any so-called super-power." —Renter.

Captured Cubans were told they would be fighting in Angola against foreign invaders

From Robert Bairford

Silva Porto, Angola, Jan 7

Cubans taken prisoner by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) in the civil war told a party of journalists here that they were informed in Cuba that they were needed to help the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) fight foreign mercenaries. They had come in the belief that they were helping black Africans to fight off invaders—but since their arrival they had not seen a single foreigner, either before their capture or after.

One of them, Dusenies Rodriguez Garcia, aged 18, a white, said he could not see why the two movements, Unita and MPLA, were fighting each other as they both appeared to be supporting the same cause.

More than 5,000 Cubans are reported to be assisting the Soviet-backed MPLA, which claims to have taken 16 Cubans prisoner in recent weeks and they presented three to foreign journalists at the military jail here yesterday. All looked fit. Through an interpreter, they said they had been well treated apart from the first few days after capture, when they were beaten by Unita troops. They had been told when recruited that they would be fighting a war of liberation for the MPLA against foreign mercenaries.

Questioned by journalists at the jail, Lieutenant Selva, a black Cuban, said: "The Cuban people would be disgusted if they knew what was going on in Angola." He had arrived in a Cuban ship, the *Yankee Heroica*, in October along with about 100 other troops. His job was to train MPLA followers in the use of Czech arms.

He was captured in Lobito in November after being in hospital with dysentery and was kept tightly bound. He still had marks on his arms where the rope had cut into his skin.

Garcia, an infantryman, was only 17 when he was flown along with 32 others to Angola in August. He said that the aircraft touched down somewhere on the way but he did not know where. It was the first time he had been on a flight.

After a few weeks in Luanda, the MPLA stronghold, he was taken by car towards Lobito where he was due to report for duty. On the way, he stopped for food and the driver never returned for him. For two days,

he wandered around in search of food, unable to speak the local language, until he was picked up by advancing Unita troops.

"I was tied to a tree the whole night and beaten. On the way to Huambo (formerly Nova Lisboa), and wherever we stopped, I was whipped and beaten by people. However, a few days later he met Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, who gave him guarantees that he would be well treated. Since then he had been well looked after."

Jose Durudi, a white mechanic, said he had been ordered to go to Angola in November and travelled with 30 other Cubans in a ship named *Co. Al*. He was captured in December when Unita attacked Benguela.

"I was shot in the left leg and taken prisoner. I had a few hearings but as I was hurt I was treated quite well," he answered to questions he said: "No, I am not afraid. I do not know when I shall be allowed to go home."

A married man with one daughter, he was asked if he had any message for his family in Cuba. "I would like to tell them I am all right and for all Cubans to keep their hands off Angola. I don't really know what is going on in Angola."

shaven. Journalists questioned them and they replied, in French, that they also were journalists.

Before any more questions could be asked, the guards evidently realizing that something was wrong, took them back inside.

Dr Savimbi, who was not present, was later asked by journalists about the matter. He said that although he knew of an incident sometime before concerning three photographers who had disobeyed security regulations, he knew nothing of anyone being imprisoned.

French journalists held in Unita prison

From Our Special Correspondent

Silva Porto, Angola, Jan 7

Two French journalists are being held in a jail in Silva Porto, the military headquarters of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita). Their names are now known but it is believed they work for the French photographic agency Gamma.

The reasons for their arrest remain a mystery. The two men were produced by mistake by guards at the prison when Cuban prisoners captured during the civil war were being presented to a party of foreign journalists. However, Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, said that the two would probably be released shortly, after an inquiry.

The party of journalists, who had been taken to Silva Porto to interview three Cuban prisoners, asked for the prisoners to be brought out for photographs. Two white men, who had not been seen before, emerged with the Cubans.

They were barefoot, wearing ragged clothes and looking extremely dejected. One had a full beard, the other was un-

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Longest session yet of talks on Rhodesia

From Our Correspondent

Salisbury, Jan 7

The constitutional talks between the Rhodesian Government and the African National Council faction led by Mr Joshua Nkomo lasted for two-and-a-half hours today—the longest session so far in the present round of discussions. A joint statement by both sides said the discussions were constructive and it was agreed that a further meeting would be held at 10.30.

Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, again led his delegation which included Mr David Smith, the Minister of Agriculture, Reg-

nald Cowper, Minister of the Public Service and Co-ordination, Mr Jack Maset, Minister of Internal Affairs, and Mr Roger Hawkins, Minister of Transport and Power.

The 12-man ANC delegation included Mr Nkomo's senior officials Mr Joshua Chinamano, Mr Joseph Mshila, Mr Arisana Chambari, and Mr Willie Mnearurwa. His legal team included Dr Claire Pailley, from the University of Kent, Mr Justice Leo Baron, Deputy Chief Justice of Zambia, and two British lawyers.

Meanwhile the African National Council faction led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa today reiterated its condemnation of the talks and attacked both Britain and Zambia for their attitude towards them. An official of the group, the Rev Max Chigwida, said in a statement that any conspiracy aimed at hoodwinking Rhodesian blacks into accepting a Smith-Nkomo deal would be rejected. It would meet the same fate as the 1971 Anglo-Rhodesian settlement proposals.

Mr Chigwida criticized a recent remark by Mr David Ennals, Minister of State at the

Foreign Office, that if Mr Nkomo achieved the "right sort of deal" he would carry most Rhodesian blacks with him.

"If the British Government, through such subtle ways as Mr Ennals's statement is preparing the way to legalise the 1965 Unilateral Declaration of Independence, then why not come out in the open?" Asked Mr Chigwida, Britain had abdicated its responsibility over Rhodesia when it failed to act decisively against the white rebellion of 1965 and the present British attitude was a desperate attempt to wish away a nagging problem.

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Sex Discrimination

The difference can no longer make a difference

The Sex Discrimination Act became law on December 29. Generally, employers, educational establishments and those that provide goods, facilities and services to the public e.g. banks, building societies, finance houses and landlords will be breaking the law if they do not provide men and women with the same opportunities and services.

Equality in Employment

Any employer who discriminates on grounds of sex in recruitment, treatment or promotion, will be breaking the law. Employment agencies will not usually be able to label jobs 'for men' or 'for women'.

There are only a few exceptions. These include employment in private households, employers with not more than five staff, jobs such as acting and modelling, and situations that need to be confined to one sex for reasons of decency or privacy. Also illegal, in the field of employment, is discrimination on grounds of marriage.

Equality in Education

Schools, colleges and universities must not discriminate in the facilities they provide. For example, classes in mechanical drawing and home economics must be open to both girls and boys. From September 1st 1976, co-educational schools must not discriminate in their admissions. It's particularly important that parents are aware of their children's rights.

Equality in Housing, Goods and Services

Generally, those who provide housing, goods, facilities or services to the public will not be allowed to discriminate against customers because of their sex. This applies whether accommodation is being bought or rented and includes hotels, public houses and restaurants.

Equality in Finance

Banks, building societies and finance houses must not treat one sex less favourably than the other in the terms in which credit, mortgages and loans are offered.

Equality in Advertising

Advertisements may not indicate an intent to discriminate. A job advertisement using terms such as 'waiter', 'salesgirl', 'postman' or 'stewardess' should make it clear that both men and women are eligible.

The Equal Opportunities Commission

The Equal Opportunities Commission will oversee the working of the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act and seek to eliminate discrimination. Above all, the Commission will help you to know your rights and how to exercise them. The Commission's address is:

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US concern over double setback in Africa

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Jan 7

American experts of African affairs admit here that their protégés in Angola have suffered two defeats: the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, armed with Russian weapons and helped by Cuban troops, has won a considerable victory, and the Russians seem to have rejected all idea of compromise.

The second is probably the more important. President Ford had hoped that the Russians might be persuaded to end their intervention in Angola in the interests of their long-term relations with the United States. An editorial in yesterday's *Izvestia*, the Soviet Government newspaper, apparently indicates that the Russians will do nothing of the sort.

It is thought evident that both the MPLA offensive and the Russian hard line are in preparation for the summit of the Organization of African States in Addis Ababa, but then does not make them any the less serious.

The Administration continues to try to minimize direct American involvement in Angola, while arguing that involvement is necessary to stop Russia from establishing a colony in one of the richest countries in Africa. All the other Soviet client states in Africa are poor and backward, but Angola is potentially as rich as Nigeria or Zaire.

The Administration has denied a report that American pilots were flying supplies into northern Angola from bases in Zaire. The airport which they were alleged to be using has now been captured by the MPLA, so the story has only an historic significance.

Senator Dick Clark of Iowa accused the United States yesterday of conducting an "exchange of information" with the South Africans. It is not at all clear why this should be considered reprehensible, but evidently Senator Clark thinks

so. The State Department has denied that it has formed any sort of a tacit understanding with South Africa on what to do about Angola.

It will not be possible to measure the degree of American diplomatic success in Africa until the OAU votes on whether to recognize the MPLA as the Government of Angola or whether to call for a coalition and a ceasefire.

The Americans have made great efforts to persuade African moderates to vote for the coalition, and presumably the French and the British have been exerting whatever residual influence they may have in Africa in the same direction. Our Paris Correspondent writes: President Giscard d'Estaing told today's Cabinet meeting that the French Government condemned the massive influx of arms and mercenaries into Angola in the past few weeks. He demanded that an end should be put to such intervention.

"The continuation of such intervention would create a permanent state of tension and division in Africa, destroying the atmosphere of peace, which has so far gone and in hand with independence, would divert the continent from its primary task of development," he stated.

Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Britain will urge the OAU summit to secure an immediate ceasefire in Angola and the withdrawal of all remaining foreign forces. A statement to this effect, issued yesterday, will be conveyed to the president and the secretary-general of the OAU.

The British hope, as Mr Callaghan has expressed it, that the South Africans may decide to withdraw their forces from Angola, which would in turn open the way for African countries to call for a Soviet withdrawal.

There has been no reply from the Soviet, South African or Cuban governments to Mr Callaghan's recent representation on Angola.

Russia says aid to MPLA is furthering détente

Moscow, Jan 7.—The Soviet Union, in a tough new statement on Angola, has rejected United States criticism of its involvement there, adding that by backing Angolan Marxists it is supporting détente.

The argument was outlined in a front-page leading article in Tuesday's issue of *Izvestia*, which hardened the line taken by Khrushchev last weekend that foreign intervention in the former Portuguese colony must cease.

Moscow analysts said that *Izvestia* seemed to be hinting that its own intervention was a different matter. It said: "It is natural that all real friends of the Angolan people who helped in its liberation struggle should express feelings of solidarity and support and rebuffing foreign aggression."

Analysts said that the article read like a negative response to hopes expressed by President Ford and Dr Kissinger that the Russians would scale down their aid to the Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

Izvestia said: "Imperialist intervention... in the people's Republic of Angola has been accompanied by noisy propaganda about a Soviet threat and

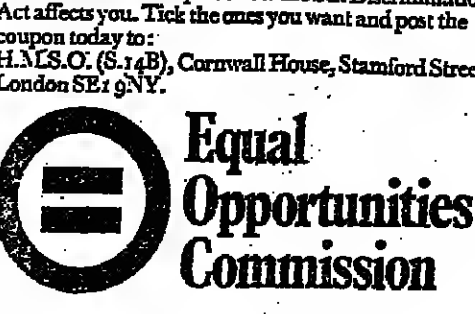
contradictions between support rendered to the Government of the Republic and the Popular Movement and the policy of détente and lessening tension.

"As far as détente is concerned, it is not true that the struggle against racism and apartheid and protection and respect for the sovereignty of the young independent countries is in reality an investment in détente."

The newspaper added that some "absurd" charges had been made about the position of the USSR on Angola which could be dismissed, "but other leaders also made statements on Angola."

Izvestia drew a distinction between opposition Angolan groups and the MPLA, describing the former as "splinter factions" and a front for South African and Portuguese forces, aided by mercenaries recruited in the United States and elsewhere.

Western diplomatic sources said that the article did not rule out a possible end to Soviet intervention and it was sufficiently vague about the forthcoming meeting of the Organization of African Unity to leave room to manoeuvre, depending on what decisions were taken at the meeting.



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OVERSEAS

CIA paid £3m to keep the communists out of power in Italy

From Patrick Rogan
Washington, Jan 7

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been subsidizing Italian centrist politicians and parties in the hope that this will help to stop the Communists from entering the Government. At least \$6m (about £3m) has been paid secretly in the past month.

News of this surprising action was leaked from congressional committees meant to supervise the activities of the intelligence community. Mr William Colby, the director of CIA, gave the information in secret briefings last month to those members of the committees who now-days are entitled to know of such developments.

Reports in this morning's newspapers therefore raise not only the propriety of making payments to Italian politicians, but the fundamental question of whether the Administration can now ever trust Congress to keep a secret. This is only the latest of such leaks: the most recent of other examples concerned Angola.

Congressmen who attended the Colby briefings now confirm the essential accuracy of the news reports, without going into detail. Mr Leo Ryan, a Democrat from California and a member of the House International Relations Committee, said he was "totally and thoroughly in disagreement" with the decision to interfere in Italian domestic politics.

Dr Henry Kissinger has long contended that the whole Mediterranean was in danger of becoming a communist lake. That was why he supported the Greek colonels until the last moment, with the result that today America is desperately unpopular in Greece.

The Secretary of State continued to follow a similar policy of friendship with General Franco, even making President Ford to Madrid, despite the protests of his European allies.

The CIA is believed to have wanted to intervene in Portugal, but to have been persuaded to leave support of the Socialist party in that country to European Socialists, who acted openly and therefore did not provoke the sort of hostile reaction which now seems likely in Italy.

The Americans, of course, contributed largely to anti-communist movements in Western Europe, notably in France and Italy, in the years immediately after the Second World War. The CIA's investment in anti-Allende politics in Chile has recently been given great publicity. It was believed, however, that subsidies to Europeans were much reduced in the 1950s and early 1960s, and were ended altogether after the disclosure in 1967 of *Ramparts Magazine* in Washington.

Washington, Jan 7.—Mr Ron Nessen, the Presidential Press Secretary, told reporters today he was not going to comment on allegations about what the CIA might or might not be doing in Italy or elsewhere.

"But let me add this," he said: "The President is angry by seeing these allegations in print. The mere publication of allegations, whether they are true or not, do damage."

"The allegations make it difficult to work with and to continue to have a relationship with friends and allies around the world."

President Ford was reported to have discussed the news leaks in explosive language when he met senior White House officials today.

Our Rome Correspondent writes: Signor Benigno Zaccagnini, secretary of the governing Christian Democrats, tonight denied that his party had accepted money from the CIA.

The Republicans, partners in the outgoing coalition, and the Socialists also denied any allegations of having received such money.

\$10,000 fine for falsifying date on Nixon papers

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Jan 7

Mr Ralph Newman, a literary scholar and expert on Lincoln, was fined \$10,000 (about £5,000) in Chicago yesterday for his part in falsifying the income tax returns of Mr Nixon, the former President. He had been found guilty of putting a false date on the donation of Mr Nixon's vice-presidential papers, so enabling Mr Nixon to claim a tax deduction.

To passing sentence, Judge Frank McGarr said that it would not be appropriate to send Mr Newman to prison or to put him on probation. He also commended that "the crime is no less reprehensible and a respected public figure such as Mr Newman has a greater responsibility to uphold the law."

The case arose from the practice of donating presidential and vice-presidential papers to the national archives and claiming an income tax deduction based on their estimated value. Unfortunately for Mr Nixon, Congress passed a law, which he himself signed, putting an

end to these deductions for any papers not donated before July 25, 1969.

His own papers, dating from his days as Vice-President, had been donated to the national archives earlier, but were not formally donated until the spring of 1970. So Mr Newman who had valued them at \$75,000, signed an affidavit saying that they had been donated in the spring of 1969.

Charges have already been brought against two of Mr Nixon's White House advisers in connection with the case. One of them, Mr Edward Morgan, has served a four-month prison term. Mr Nixon himself is protected by the pardon given him by President Ford.

Washington, Jan 7.—A special three-judge court ruled today that millions of documents and the White House tapes accumulated during Mr Nixon's term of office belonged to the Government and not to Mr Nixon.

The ruling upholds the constitutionality of a new federal law providing public access to thousands of hours of tapes and about 42 million documents. The court ruled, however, that the records of the Nixon years would remain locked away pending a possible Supreme Court appeal by the former President.—AP.

Ecuador's entire Cabinet resigns

Quito, Jan 7.—The entire Cabinet of Ecuador has resigned to allow President Guillermo Rodriguez Lara to choose new advisers, General Bolivar Lopez, the Secretary-General of the Government, said today.

He said the 11-member Cabinet had resigned on January 6 and its nine military members had asked to be reassigned to military posts.

The general did not say why the resignation was delayed for more than a week. The resignation had added to the difficulties of the President, who put down a military rebellion last September 1.

General Bolivar Lopez added that the ministers were still functioning on a temporary basis until the President decides whether to accept their resignations. He expected all the resignations to be accepted.—Reuter.

Planned supersonic aircraft fleet 'no radiation threat'

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Jan 7

Present plans for between 30 and 50 supersonic transport aircraft in service in the 1980s pose no threat to the ozone layer in the stratosphere which protects the Earth from harmful solar radiation, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said today.

A statement, representing "the best available scientific assessment" blamed chlorofluoromethanes (CFCs) from domestic and industrial aerosols as the main danger to the ozone layer.

It added, however, that a fleet of between 200 and 300 supersonic aircraft flying at greater altitudes could have "a noticeable effect" on the ozone layer, possibly requiring international action to limit the exhaust emission of nitrogen oxides.

"On the basis of evidence so far obtained, the potential threat of a considerable deple-

tion of the ozone layer in the future must be recognized," the statement said.

The organization estimated that if freons continued to be released at the 1972 global rate for the next 30 to 70 years there could be a 10 per cent reduction in the ozone layer levels. This would result in an increase of some 20 per cent in ultraviolet radiation reaching the Earth's surface—enough to harm living creatures.

Another result, WMO pointed out, would be an average temperature drop of up to 10°C in the upper stratosphere. It put the present depletion of ozone due to freons already in the stratosphere at around 1 per cent.

The main concentration of ozone is at a height of between 12 and 35 miles. Its absorption of solar radiation is also a main source of energy in the stratosphere; any change could, therefore, have an effect on climate.

Sexual hypocrisy decreed by Soviet professor

Moscow, Jan 7.—Sex problems in the Soviet Union are still riddled in hypocrisy and secrecy and should be brought into the open for the benefit of Russia's youth, according to a Soviet professor.

In an article in the Moscow youth newspaper *Moskovsky Komсомолец* Professor Yuri Kravchinsky said today that love and marriage were not private affairs.

He welcomed the transition from the "closed" society of *Youth and Love*, and said "it is high time similar books appeared by Soviet authors."

"Vitally important problems of sex are still covered today by the veil of pedagogical hypocrisy and secrecy... to ignore the specific task of sexual education is to cause damage not only to individuals but to society, too," he added.

"It is not enough to be Hungarian: you must also have talent". Clarisse Loxton Peacock, an artist who came to this country from Hungary at the age of 18, quotes this adage and presents as evidence 10 one-woman shows—the last has just closed at Frost and Reed in Bond Street. There have been three in Germany and one in New York: now there is to be one in Paris. She sold more than two-thirds of her paintings at the last show, and she is now commuting between Paris (where her husband is working) and their London house. Their two children are grown up.

Paris she doesn't like, New York she hates—or rather, it is the social approach to art she hates: the people who come to the openings, invite you to parties, and pass you on the street as if they had never met you. A wickedly amusing talker, she waves a paint bespattered apron and asks if she should frame it. "The critics would say that she must have been very unhappy when she did that."

Her paintings are all still lifes, and as Edward Lucie-Smith wrote in the catalogue for her London show: "These paintings follow in the footsteps of two of the leading quietists of modern art—the two painters Clarisse Loxton Peacock says she admires above all others: Morandi and Braque. The nudes she paints become arrangements with flowers, birds, fruit, and some paintings consist entirely of beetles or of butterflies."

The house she fell in love with in Kensington, with the studio in the garden, now has green empty spaces on the walls. There is her collection of porcelain birds—some from junk shops, some not—but one would think she would miss her paintings. "I lose

interest in them the moment they are finished. If you don't like a painting, you can put your foot through it. I just want to get on painting. For me, it is a joy."

She has been paid the ultimate compliment by the man in the street in that she has had three paintings stolen—one from a gallery, one from the Gare d'Est, and one from outside her house in the middle of packing them off to a show.

"I wake up at six o'clock in the morning, and there are still things to do at 12 o'clock at night, and I am still not in bed. I need very little sleep. Also I have an enormous amount of energy. To be a painter you must have an awful lot of energy. Also you have to have very strong legs, you know."

"I paint whether happy or unhappy. But I begrudge every minute that I spend away from my work, especially in daylight. There are things I would like to do. I would like to read much more, but then it seems to me a waste of time to read when I could be doing a little drawing. I must be completely mad, but that is what life is about."

"When I went off to Paris this time, I said I was going to be different—sit in a room and be clean and soignée, and I was going to read Dickens—I took with me *Barnaby Rudge*. But the moment I got there, we went to the Artists' Co-op, and I bought an enormous easel and a tarpaulin to cover my landlady's floor, and went to work immediately. I arrived on Tuesday in the afternoon; on Wednesday I started to paint, a big still life in navy blue and orange." On Friday she looked up again, went round some galleries and listened to what people thought about her paintings. "If people keep telling you that your paintings are terrible pure and noble, you find yourself becoming more pure and noble by the minute."

A woman with the essential qualities of an artist: talent and strong legs

"For a painter it doesn't matter if you are happy or unhappy—probably you paint much better if you are unhappy, because you are more turned inward, you know? I work much better under pressure, when I am slightly unhappy, away from home. I was in Paris, but I might just as well have been in Huddersfield. When painting one is away from the cities and the shoes—I am not a shopper, what I would like is to get someone to buy my clothes. Clothes have to be very simple and very understated, preferably green. And not pretty. I don't like pretty. Painting completely excludes you from normal life—it's very solitary. Those first hours of the day while I am painting I don't talk to anybody. In the evening I do go out and see people, or they come to see me. Painters also have the problem that either it is so good that you hardly dare leave it or something dreadful will happen. You think about it, dream about it, and in the morning I rush in and look at it, and either think how marvellous, or I come back at three o'clock in the morning, and think I can't go to bed and leave this—my God, tomorrow I will kill myself. Also, you are so dirty that it sets you aside. I can only go out if I change completely from top to toe. It is a terrible existence, a completely one-track involvement."

On her studio wall she has a little quotation from William Faulkner:

No pain, no gain
No thorn, no rose
No gall, no glory
No cross, no crown.

She gave me a portrait of a butterfly, and I told her that everything in the house now looked pale and insignificant. "My dear, I am delighted," said Clarisse Loxton Peacock.

Philipa Toomey



How the force of Habitat has taken a risky new direction

When I go into an office building and find Habitat furniture, I feel I am at risk of finding bald 30-year-olds with florid shirts too young for them and big gold cufflinks made from fake rubies. They will say "No way!" when you are willing to cooperate instead of "I'm afraid that isn't possible."

While I am calling they will play with silly desk toys made of ballbearings. When they answer the telephone (one that has instead of rings) they will hold an enormous and intimate conversation while I sit twiddling my thumbs. If I am lucky they may serve instant coffee in thick ugly mugs, apparently pummeled into their grooves by *Le Pen* Indians, but in fact from Habitat's "Granville" range of "simple earthenware". They will blow their noses into Kleenex tissues and throw them into a Habitat plastic waste bin.

Never mind, a Habitat office there is often the most meagre distinction. The same furniture made out of chrome gymnastics bars, the same little white coffee pot, the same oaky chunks of foam seating; the same maidenhair fern or mother-in-law's tongue in terracotta pots vainly trying to relieve the clinical impression. The same spotlights glaring down on you as Habitat

To be fair, this was Habitat Mark I. Terence Conran had clearly opted for whole-bog International Style, with a few trendy variations of his own ("rounding off the corners" covers a lot of them), that did produce a living style which, whether you liked it or not—and I didn't—was recognizably, authentically and soon canonically 1960s. It was the kind of official style of the 60s as opposed to the pop style of the 60s.

Now we have Habitat Mark II. You can view it first, without braving the Gymnasium yourself, in the glossy catalogue, or in the glossy impression upon you that Habitat furniture is used by human beings, not by Lend Leasat athletes, is a rather grumpy looking girl in a Kate Greenaway frock, holding a glass of wine in her left hand with her right hand awkwardly cupped over the mouth of the glass, as if trapping a wasp. In the foreground is half of a squat, dumpy sofa straight from a Tom and Jerry cartoon; a gymnasium-bars coffee table; and a boring lamp which looks as if it is growing from a black and white plant.

A white wistful cat has elected to have nothing to do with any of the furniture, but to sit on the floor.

Round this composition is a border which consists of the pattern of the sofa material—a mélange of cream meringues, Christmas-card stars and cockle shells as favoured by Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary, Minnie Mouse or Olive Oyle would feel quite at home with it. It is late Art Deco/early Austerity Binge.

Habitat's catalogue descriptions of their wares reveal something of their present aspirations or intentions. On page two we read: "Basically, this is a very pretty sitting room." The eye moves rightwards to look at the picture this rubric qualifies. Those expecting a "chic" room with a friendly pattern on the wall-paper will be disappointed to discover a room of dun-coloured furniture against pale beige walls. The "tortoise sofa" with its "heavy grade foam" is the "innovator range of efficient chairs" with chrome-plated frames; the "Stuns table" with white top on chrome frame; the

some of its products. Hanging from the ceiling of the Tottenham Court Road branch is the following manifesto: "Our lights have gone soft. We've added a softer, warmer range to our well-known 'architectural' lighting. Natural pine pendant, curly persimmon shades, lollipop-shaped standard lamps and these ceramic-based table lamps. Deep-fried in cream, earthy brown, light blue, twilight blue. And friendly, mushroom-shaped 'Fungo'."

Persimmon may be as curly as it likes, but it is still uncyclably Persimmon as far as I am concerned. With "lollipop-shaped" we are back with Noddy in Toyland—and this is the overriding impression of the Habitat Mark II style—a range of furniture called "Club". I have a feeling there would be a protest at a set of the stuff, with its Art Deco fabric. But I do quite like this set, strictly in terms of the nostalgia which the catalogue illustrates underlines by some ugly punks of Art Deco pottery littered round the room.

Let no one think I am judging Habitat merely by its catalogue. I know it very much at first hand because I had to buy the Habitat furniture in my present (unfurnished) flat to obtain the lease from the previous owner. I paid £200 and I have now lived with it for more than three years because I cannot afford to replace it. I find it both ugly and uncomfortable; and when you have said that about a piece of furniture, there is little scope left for compliments. But that was pure Habitat Mark I; to make sure I was not doing Mark II an injustice, I went to Habitat in Tottenham Court Road for some fieldwork.

It was Saturday afternoon, an ideal time to visit the young couples in. I was going to say, their habitat. A teenage pair stood hand-in-hand like Peyton lovers, in the midst of it all, and it would need the pen of the late C. S. Lewis to describe the pathos they presented—the world before them, where to choose—as Milton says of Adam and Eve. I wandered round like the Recording Angel with my notebook and pencil, and saw like a part of the home that might be in store for this prelapsarian pair.

Well, Habitat couples write notes to themselves on a washable Memory Board. They keep kitchen utensils in a case like a set of a lavatory S-bend, and just in case they forget it is labelled "Kitchen Utensils"; another similar buff-glazed pot is labelled "Pork Dripping"; ah! there's wholesome for you! They wipe the dishes with a cloth patterned with all houses and mushrooms, the labelled "Champignons"—the silhouettes include "lactaire visqueux" and "Amanite fausse gomme", which must make wiping-up quite an intellectual exercise. They grow fennel, basil, chervil and summer savory in "fresh herb pots" ("just add water"). They serve nutritious salads from Elm Salad Bowls—£4.50 each, but presumably rare collectors' items considering the progress of raging elm disease. Their children drink from pottery mugs printed: "B-Balloon Bar Boys and Ball" or "M-for Mouse and My Meggie". And the kids play with folksy rag dolls called "Victoria Dolls", press flowers in Habitat flower presses, and divert themselves with the improving kaleidoscope.

This might seem to be where Terence Conran came in. In my hook *Austerity/Binge* is illustrated some high 1950s pottery designed by him and decorated with balloons. Is the age of whimsy dawning again? Certainly it does seem that Habitat is to some extent recasting the child computerized design of the sixties and trying to re-human-

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ize some of its products. Hanging from the ceiling of the Tottenham Court Road branch is the following manifesto: "Our lights have gone soft. We've added a softer, warmer range to our well-known 'architectural' lighting. Natural pine pendant, curly persimmon shades, lollipop-shaped standard lamps and these ceramic-based table lamps. Deep-fried in cream, earthy brown, light blue, twilight blue. And friendly, mushroom-shaped 'Fungo'."

Persimmon may be as curly as it likes, but it is still uncyclably Persimmon as far as I am concerned. With "lollipop-shaped" we are back with Noddy in Toyland—and this is the overriding impression of the Habitat Mark II style—a range of furniture called "Club". I have a feeling there would be a protest at a set of the stuff, with its Art Deco fabric. But I do quite like this set, strictly in terms of the nostalgia which the catalogue illustrates underlines by some ugly punks of Art Deco pottery littered round the room.

Let no one think I am judging Habitat merely by its catalogue. I know it very much at first hand because I had to buy the Habitat furniture in my present (unfurnished) flat to obtain the lease from the previous owner. I paid £200 and I have now lived with it for more than three years because I cannot afford to replace it. I find it both ugly and uncomfortable; and when you have said that about a piece of furniture, there is little scope left for compliments. But that was pure Habitat Mark I; to make sure I was not doing Mark II an injustice, I went to Habitat in Tottenham Court Road for some fieldwork.

It was Saturday afternoon, an ideal time to visit the young couples in. I was going to say, their habitat. A teenage pair stood hand-in-hand like Peyton lovers, in the midst of it all, and it would need the pen of the late C. S. Lewis to describe the pathos they presented—the world before them, where to choose—as Milton says of Adam and Eve. I wandered round like the Recording Angel with my notebook and pencil, and saw like a part of the home that might be in store for this prelapsarian pair.

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There are other things to make in the New Year besides resolutions.

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SPORT

Football

Birmingham balloons deflated by the wiles of McCalliog

By Geoffrey Green
Football Correspondent

It has been a sad 48 hours for the community of Birmingham. The previous night had seen Portsmouth who at St Andrews; last night was the turn of Southampton, who had been seen to be a victim of the wiles of McCalliog. When Aston Villa first took the field the stadium was flooded with a cascade of coloured balloons. It was a scene that had been seen before, but this time it was different. The balloons were not just a decoration, they were a weapon. They were used to distract the players, to create confusion, to create chaos. The balloons were deflated by the wiles of McCalliog.

Thus their whole attacking plan was further dislocated and reduced to a 4-2-2 line-up—a formation which Southampton themselves had adopted from the start with Osmond playing the role of a deep lying, sometimes deep lying, centre forward. In an extra time, a certain Villa reappeared, this time as a defender, to the other flank and filling the gap left by Graydon by pushing the driving little Gidman up to the right flank. Gidman all through had been outstanding in a Villa side which had been a real team, a team that within eight minutes Villa were level, when Graydon, moving left, punched a soft back pass to Peach. Peach, who had been stranded in the middle, moved forward and into the goal.

The goals when they came saw Southampton take the lead at the half. It was a fine move, begun by Osmond, carried on by Graydon, who had been a real team, a team that within eight minutes Villa were level, when Graydon, moving left, punched a soft back pass to Peach. Peach, who had been stranded in the middle, moved forward and into the goal.

Forest and Clough victims of a double irony

By Norman Fox
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Alan Gowling... First goal since the beginning of November.

A devil's brew turns Rangers into losers

By Keith Macklin
Newcastle 2

Queen's Park Rangers 1
Cup ties at St James' Park are always something special, a devil's brew, a concoction of excitement, controversy, an ear-splitting babel of sound and enough incident to fill four football programmes. The Rangers' 2-1 FA Cup replay with Newcastle was no exception.

Newcastle won in the end because their manager, Gordon Lee, abandoned an expensively cautious 11-man defence after Rangers' equaliser, and sent his troops forward like the Light Brigade to storm the Rangers defence.

Until Newcastle's storming finish, Rangers had responded to United's hopeful charges through Macdonald and Gowling with some superb, fluent football. However, there were times when the Rangers' defence was shaky.

For the first 20 minutes the players ran like electric horses. Rangers produced the liveliest opening and in the second minute Francis thumped a shot against the Newcastle goal. The Newcastle defence was shaky.

Newcastle gathered themselves and suddenly and unexpectedly they were ahead. Craig stroked a free kick to Nattrass and his shot, which was deflected by the Newcastle defence, was a goal.

Then came the penalty controversy and one of those moments when the referee's decision is crucial.

Revie appeal to 28 players
Doo Revie is asking 28 players to arrange holidays during the period of the England international at the close of the present season. From St James' Park, where he was watching the FA Cup replay between Newcastle and Queen's Park Rangers, Revie said: "In order to help players in arranging holidays and club managers in organising their winter tours, I have sent out letters today to 28 players, addressed through their clubs, asking them to keep England dates free. I want to make it clear that they are not being selected for a squad, though, obviously, they are players I have been watching closely."

Kellard for Chelmsford
Bobby Kellard, aged 37, has been appointed player-manager of the Southern League side, Chelmsford City. He has made nearly 500 appearances in the league and has won four titles, including fourth division title in 1962, which he joined this season after a spell in South African football.

Rochele agree
Rochele have agreed to play their FA Cup third round replay against Norwich City at Carrow Road. They will be competing in the Association football league for final approval and request that the match takes place on Tuesday—48 days after the FA's decision.

Olympic Games
Minister optimistic about stadium
From Richard Low
Montreal, Jan 7
To the accompaniment of blood-congealing cold and some less-than-enthusiastic new year's resolutions, Montreal puts into the final six months of its six-year Olympic obstacle race with subdued hope that its main stadium can be finished for the Games opening on July 17.

Tennis
Miss Brasher's brave challenge ends
Charlotte Leatham, who has played tennis full time since leaving school last summer, ended, as expected, the brave challenge of Kate Brasher, aged 13, in the British junior covered court championships sponsored by Green Shield, at Queen's Club, London, yesterday. Miss Leatham, aged 17, a member of Surrey's senior county side, won this season's second round match 6-3, 6-2, after Miss Brasher had fought courageously for survival.

Miss Brasher, only 4ft 10in, made the worst possible start by losing the first three games but still had Miss Leatham under considerable pressure before the first set ended. In the second set Miss Leatham led 3-1 and then tried 3-4 in face of another fine recovery by Miss Brasher, which was helped by her opponent serving four

Stoke's roof comes tumbling down

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
Newport 7

Stoke City's FA Cup home replay against Tottenham Hotspur was postponed yesterday after a section of the stand roof at the Victoria Ground crashed down, damaging seats and injuring a workman.

The 40-year-old Butler Street stand was damaged by last week's gales. Workmen had been repairing the damage when timber reinforcements gave way, plunging down a section of the roof.

The decision to postpone the Cup tie, scheduled for last night, was made by the Football Association, with the police and safety experts, but was made too late to stop the Spurs party travelling. The team coach was then well on its way in the Midlands.

The party did not hear of the postponement until arrival at their hotel, where they had also planned to stay for Saturday's match with Derby County. The Spurs secretary, secretary, Bill Stevens, said: "This could have been a disaster. We have had to postpone the match for the next two weeks and the fourth round of the FA Cup is on January 24th."

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Burnley choose Brown as new manager
Joe Brown, assistant manager for the past two years, was yesterday appointed manager of Burnley, who have resigned on Tuesday.

Announcing the appointment, Burnley manager, Mr. John W. Adams, said: "Joe Brown has been a valuable member of the staff and has learned his trade. He has gone through all the stages and has now earned his chance. He will be a great asset to the club."

Mr. Brown, aged 46, played for Burnley in the 1950s and 1960s. He was later a member of the Burnley FA Cup team, which won the trophy in 1957.

Yesterday's results
FA Cup
Third round replay
Aston Villa (1) v. Southampton (2) 2-1
Barnsley (1) v. Queens Park Rangers (2) 1-0
Barnsley (1) v. Queens Park Rangers (2) 1-0

Rugby Union
Newport 7
Stoke City 7
Tottenham Hotspur 7

Revised draw
Barnsley City v. Reading and Middlesbrough v. Tottenham Hotspur. Barnsley City v. Reading and Middlesbrough v. Tottenham Hotspur.

Australians reverse a trend in error-riddled encounter

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
Newport 7

It is setting on for 30 years since an Australian side last won at Rodney Parade. So these James Wallabies must have been thankful yesterday to succeed by three penalty goals and a try to a penalty goal.

Although the conditions were excellent—the Australians have a very good record in anything worse than a light shower in Newport—it cannot be said that much light shone through the match. It was a truth that the Australians were not in the best of form.

All in all, it was an occasion to be thankful for the smallest of things, and at least the players were in the best of form.

It was a good day for the Australians, Newport clearly were back in strong contention. Ten minutes later their lead was sealed by an Australian try.

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French pick Martinez as a reserve
Agen, France, Jan 7.—The French selectors have caused a surprise by naming the 20-year-old Toulouse scrum half, Gerald Martinez, as a reserve for the match against Scotland at Murrayfield on Saturday.

He replaces Richard Asprey who received a rib injury during a club game last Sunday.

Martinez, who played superbly against the Romanians under-23 team two months ago, was preferred to the former French captain, Max Barrau, who has been in good form this season after being barred from first class rugby for a year because of club debts.

Corless has a knee injury
David Duckham, fighting off influenza, has been selected for Coventry against Cardiff at the Arms Park on Saturday, but Barry Corless, who was in the first team, has a knee injury.

Athletics
Jenkins hopes for world best at 600 metres
By Neil Allen
Athletics Correspondent
David Jenkins, the American as well as the British 400 metres champion, hopes to start his ninth season by winning the 600 metres at the Bedford Games on Saturday with the world's best indoor time for 600 metres.

Golf
Cambridge's strong challenge
By Peter Ryde
Golf Correspondent
An undergraduate challenge with a strong Cambridge flavour is to be seen in the draw for the first round of the Cambridge University Golf Club competition, which begins today at Rye. Of eight clubs in residence since the move from Cambridge, while the Oxford captain, D. R. Tate made up the number, the Cambridge side was strong.

Squash rackets
Zaman top seed for world championship
By Rex Bellamy
Squash Rackets Correspondent
The eight seeds for the inaugural world open squash rackets championship, to be played at Wembley, London, from January 5 to 11, are exactly duplicated the most recent rankings issued by the International Squash Rackets Association. In addition, six of the eight "shadow" seeds are the means of a draw because it was not considered there was a clear order of merit among players.

Summingale event
The women's golf tournament at Summingale from August 4 to 7 will be sponsored by Colgate.

Waterville are hosts
This year's Irish professional golf championship will be held at Waterville, Co. Wick, from May 3 to 6. Prize money totals £3,500, it was announced in Dublin yesterday.

Ice hockey
NATIONAL LEAGUE: New York Rangers 4, Boston Bruins 1; St. Louis Blues 4, Chicago Blackhawks 1; Philadelphia Flyers 4, Pittsburgh Penguins 1.

Hockey
MADRID: Netherlands tournament (1st place): Spain v. West Germany, 2-1; (2nd place): France v. Netherlands, 2-1.

Hipwell out of action for tour

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent
Newport 7

The Australian rugby captain, John Hipwell, will be out of action for the rest of the tour after having a knee removed at Guya Hospital, London.

Hipwell, who damaged his knee in the international match against Wales at Cardiff last month, will be in hospital for a further period of five days.

Ross Turnbull, the team manager, said: "It is a pity that John Hipwell will be out of action for the rest of the tour. He is a very good player and we will miss him."

Turnbull said: "He will be staying in hospital for a further period of five days. We are not sending for a replacement at this stage of the tour."

Navy exercise leaves room for improvement
By Gordon Allan
Hampshire 22
It was anything but a calm sea and a prosperous voyage for the Royal Navy's 20-year-old Hampshire, who failed to win a match in the county rugby championship this season, won by two goals, two penalties and a try.

The Navy figured in a triple tie for the Services Championship last year, but this time they were converted. Allen intercepted a pass by Colin Davies to score Hampshire's last try, which Fryatt converted. Fryatt placed the Navy's try from a kick by Hampshire.

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BOOKS

The burning glass of healing genius

Gustav Mahler: the

Wunderhorn Years

By Donald Mitchell

(Faber, £15)

Gustav Mahler and the

Courage to Be

By David Holbrook

(Vision Press, £7.95)

More than any other man Gustav Mahler discovered the dazzling polyphony of the modern world, and there are as many different responses to his music as ears to hear it. Now that Hans-Louis de la Grange is completing his huge documentary *Life*—a book which, for all its many little imperfections, seems built to last—studies are free to slice ever more finely into musicalological detail or to investigate more transcendental areas of inquiry. Donald Mitchell's book belongs to the first category. David Holbrook's to the second.

Both writers celebrate without apology the originality of Mahler's genius. Gone, it seems, for good are the days, when critics felt obliged to lecture the lonely shade of Grazing on composition-technique and automatically deplored the lapses into "banality" that were held to disfigure his "nobler" ventures. Is it possible, at last,

to take him as he was? To see that he wrote the way he did from choice rather than extraneous feeble-mindedness? I think it is beginning to be.

Professor Mitchell is a pioneer among English Mahler scholars (*Gustav Mahler: The Early Years, 1859-1900*, now being revised in a light subsequent research) and his substantial new book slices very thick indeed, confining itself chiefly to the superabundance of thematic imagery flowing between the early songs, song-cycles, and the first four Symphonies as Mahler drew common inspiration from the famous Romantic anthology *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*. A whole distinctive sound-world, based upon natural phenomena, erotic melody and a stunning sense of drama, was established from *Das Klagende Lied* (1880) on. Clarity was all.

Where did these terrifying and exultant sounds come from? *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* was not the only literary source to excite the young composer-conductor whom Mitchell describes as one of the last flowerings of the great German Romantic tradition. The grotesque world of E. T. A. Hoffmann appealed strongly to Mahler, together with the novels of Jean Paul: *March on, drunk with joy, full of young, light images of the Italian night, which glitters and*

breathes its fragrance around thee and which, as over Hesiod, from the warm moon, shines out a golden evening star in the blue west, as if on the dwelling of the beloved soul!

Heady stuff. In one of the most illuminating sections of his book for the general reader Professor Mitchell shows how the music of Jean Paul's *Witz* (1800-03), though not the antecedent of his hero, suffuses Mahler's First Symphony (1888), as well as the vast, pantheistic Third, and the Fourth, most part of which, ravishingly ordered under the influence of Franz Schubert, Mitchell maintains, Schubert's influence on Mahler almost in passing, and Wagner's not at all. He is good, though, on Berlioz whose *Symphonie fantastique* offering a time-honoured licence for experiment, Mahler conducted frequently, and on Bach, whose chorales, counterpoint and fugues, as Mahler's last works, were transformed in Mahler's last works.

Gustav Mahler: the Wunderhorn Years is a somewhat shapeless storehouse of a book of course, it contains a great deal of information and analysis, chiefly intended for specialist eyes, particularly on the much-altered First Symphony, and it is not always clear why some items are included and others not. But the growing army of amateur Mahlerians will take much pleasure from Mitchell's

comparison of the everyday "voice-event" as used by Mahler and the American contemporary Charles Ives, from his pursuit of Mahler's ambivalent attitude towards the need for a "programme" to help audiences with the early symphonies. ("We are standing beside the coffin of one deeply loved," etc.) and from his unravelling of the notorious chronologies of the Second and Third Symphonies, which were assembled by Mahler in every possible combination of items before they ended up as they are.

One broad division in the response to Mahler remains between those who turn to his music for consolation in sorrow, and those who shrink from doing so, as Mahler himself feared, it drive them to make a god of themselves. If you are like me, one of the former, then you will be rather moved by *Gustav Mahler and the Courage to Be*. Like everything that David Holbrook writes, it is a response to our present cultural crisis, which is interpreted as the triumph of hate and pointlessness over the creative understanding of love and the search for a meaning to man's short life on earth. In the peace of integration, it is a near-run thing, though, by my ear the music only turns the corner in a fine key-change about 38 bars from the end—and the questions will have to be

asked all over again in the unfinished Tenth, as they have already been asked and answered, in *Das Lied von der Erde* and the risk of despair is a real one, which Mahler continually faces, and takes. Apart from anything else Mr Holbrook has written a remarkable book about personal and artistic courage.

About his use of modern psychoanalytical theory to explore the deep familial sources of Mahler's lifelong Angst (brute-father, crippled mother, six dead infant-siblings) I can report less surely as I am not familiar with the work of writers like Melanie Klein and am instinctively wary of what, in the context of Freud himself, Holbrook elsewhere calls easy, "reductive" explanations (can music be "male" and "female"? Well, Wagner and Strauss thought it could); but Holbrook uses the writings of Martin Buber and Rollo May with sympathy and relevance and by reflecting Mahler and Eliot in the burning glass of each other's healing genius, he tells us more than we knew by Mahler's own words. *Gustav Mahler and the Courage to Be* would be worth reading for that alone, but it offers more: a humane and measured exploration of a revolutionary artist, pursued in humility and out of the questions will have to be

Michael Ratcliffe

Garlic and chips

French and English

By Richard Faber

(Faber, £5.25)

Courting up my sad blue British Rail and SNCF ticket stubs, which I keep as foodily as ancient postcards in the back of the after-shave drawer, I see that I have sailed or hovered across the Channel between London and Paris 17 times in the past two years. So when Richard Faber introduces this study of the French and English peoples as "a series of more or less agreed crossings" between the two cultures, I appreciate something of what he means.

It's a good book, within certain deliberately sporting limits. Evolving and comparing national characteristics can be approached essentially as a parlor game, like Beggars my Neighbour or Strip Poker, or diversion sufficient unto itself. The first rule of the game is obvious side-effects of living in France for any time is that you see nearly all preconceptions of what exactly a "Frenchman" is supposed to be.

Less expected is the reciprocal fact that being abroad you suddenly gain a new sense of what an "Englishman" is. The essence gives you a frame, a sense of general outline, a palpable contour of nationality, but is perhaps exclusive to the stereotype. You become aware, on occasions of acting and reacting to an "English way", and you begin to understand why your fellow English are popularly presented in the French media as stolidly unimpassioned, bloodless, unemotional, morose, practical, one idle, and irrevocably and alienly bizarre.

A second rule of the game is that, while it seems to serve equally in commercial publicity, caricatures rapidly catch the hieroglyphic stage, at which entire clusters of association or insult are crystallized, feverishly in opposed pairs. The French Bulldog, Berets and white Garlic and Chips. Faber excels in tracing the roots of ramifications of such popular currency, particularly in the

eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and showing with what subtlety it was adjusted by educated and sympathetic observers such as Chateaubriand or Chateaubriand. Perhaps his most delightful specimen is a list of "symbolic stage properties" discovered in the Anglophile novels of Pierre Daninos, a list which ends: "a Coldstream Guard, a bottle of whisky, the Bible, a Westminster Hospital course, a cricket ball, fog, a bit of land on which the sun never set, and, at the bottom of the subconscience, a cat-o-nine-tails and a school girl in black stockings".

The third rule of the game, peculiarly applicable to the long struggle for linguistic Empire between rival French and English literatures over the rest of Europe, concerns personality characteristics: an excuse, indeed, a permanent dueller's challenge, for national wit. The English probably took the field earliest with Chaucer's *Prioresse* who spoke French "ful fere and feisly". After the sole of Stratford-on-Avon, "Kobold" Mauney who observed laconically:

Frenchmen sin in Lechery Englishmen in Ennui.

But from Montaigne's *Essays* and Shakespeare's history plays onwards, the honours are equally distributed. At best, praise and mockery go hand in hand. An aged *ho viveur* in Roger Vailland's *La Fête* remarks that in English cooking "the height of art is the steamed potato". The must in the end rank as a complete; while Thackeray reflected in 1849 that "a man who comes to Paris without directing his mind to diners, is like a fellow who travels in Athens without caring to inspect ruins . . .", which is, on reflection, something more like criticism. Faber packs his pages with many other such jewels, out of which he adds his own, such as the memorably arch and delphic, "on the whole the French have done brighter by candlelight".

His book then is decorative, highly civilized, and playful; it sticks fairly closely to parlor rules. He has a way of skating elegantly sideways across a sub-

ject which he first developed in his earlier book *Proper Stations* (1971) on an equally sensitive and important area of human relationship, the class. Larger issues are at the whole avoided. Quotations from Hippolyte Taine's *Notes sur l'Angleterie* serve to remind one that the subject is susceptible to deeper, more serious and more systematic treatment, and they emphasize Faber's diffidence, his retreat from anything that smacks of a general thesis. His chapters are anthologies rather than arguments, deliberately framed around static topics: popular mythology, tourism, or fashion. The chronology of selection is quite unordered, and no real sense of a growing historical relationship is encouraged to emerge.

Why for example does the French image of the Englishman remain stubbornly Victorian, or the English image of the French remain strangely Napoleonic? Faber is aware of such questions, writing for example, "both peoples seem to be caught in a mythical or extrinsic relationship, a relationship changing world". But he will not risk following them up.

Again, why has England always attracted political exiles from France (Hugo, Louis-Philippe, Chateaubriand), while France has seemed to attract intellectual and social "malcontents"? Faber's word—"Byron, Wilde, Orwell"—are in some sense the divided halves of an ideal civilization. Like Plato's parable of the divided sexes? And if so, is the European Community a way of healing or exacerbating that divide?

The moment some such radical question arises (or even some central topic of broad general interest, such as attitudes to revolution, or gardening, or poetry or sex) Faber dips like a genial bumble bee over a few choice, hoots, polishes an epigram or two, and swerves rapidly off to the next parable. But perhaps this is unfair. Perhaps I have been corrupted by the Gallic enthusiasm for philosophical systems, and this is all an example of the traditional *empirisme britannique*. Perhaps I should attend to my broil.

Richard Holmes

NIGERIA REPORT ON MARKETS

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Peers and Plebs

Madeleine Bingham

An entertaining story of the rise and fall of two families, one aristocratic and one plebeian. Madeleine Bingham shows how British society can adapt and how no class has been afraid to marry into another, despite snobbery or religious prejudice.

GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN

Voices from the deep

A Mingled Yarn

By Alan Gibson

(Collins, £3.95)

Alan Gibson has enjoyed (the word is not used lightly) an unlikely mixture of lives—Disseminating preacher, disc jockey and sports reporter among them.

His cricket reporting for *The Times* is frowned upon by a few of our readers who want the facts and not his yet Gibson's anecdotalism is his way of mustering steam. You either like it (I do) or skip to para. three for the match in question. Gibson even sides with his critics, but to say, as he does here, that "my prose tends to be vague and prolix" is carrying self-criticism too far.

His upbringing was Baptist—he professes the epithet Dissenter in Nonconformist and he is especially good on the arts of preaching in Celtic chapels. Listen to him doing a Test match commentary. His accent has a rural burr, less obvious than John Arlott's, but a com-

bustion of Yorkshire birth. Essex schooling and West-country growing up. A potent broadcasting voice, which had something to do with his success as a disc jockey (the phrase "disc jockey" had just been coined) and as a sports reporter among them.

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Quick guide

Peers and Plebs, by Madeleine Bingham (Allen & Unwin, £5.50).

News of the author's marriage in the future Lord Clannmorris—the Imperious heir to a hard riding and a broken gently to the intimidat-ing Bingham matriarch, in Bangor Castle, a Catholic, with one grandfather an Alsatian shoe-maker, specializing in racing pumps, and the other a regimental bandmaster, the bride was clearly of dangerously dubious stock. A witty and vastly entertaining autobiographical account of two very different families which sheds reassuring light on society's swings and roundabouts—and introduces a tamely eccentric aunt to the tireless Effie, who sued the War Office (in vain, alas) in support of her claim to have invented the tank while in a psychic trance.

Christine: a search for Christine Grauville, by Madeleine Bingham (Hemish Hamill, £5.50). Christine Grauville fled from her native Poland when it was invaded, and from there on dedicated her life to freedom, joining SOE and becoming a British agent. Vital, attractive (particularly to men), she was a legend for hair-raising exploits, which included asking into occupied Poland, and rescuing her fellow agents from prison in France. The book is a compactly presented account designed less to entertain than to generate pressure among public and politicians for an independent inquiry into the case. As a re-telling between hard covers it sets out not only to demonstrate cracks in the Crown evidence but actually presents the alleged culprit complete with alleged confession.

The book is heavily critical of the police, and of the late Lord Grant, the judge at the Meehan trial. Mr Kennedy concludes there can be only one way of dealing with the "facts" from which Patrick Meehan has not fully benefited. The book is a compactly presented account designed less to entertain than to generate pressure among public and politicians for an independent inquiry into the case. As a re-telling between hard covers it sets out not only to demonstrate cracks in the Crown evidence but actually presents the alleged culprit complete with alleged confession.

Winning at Rubber Bridge, by Edward Mayer (Batsford, £3.95). The author, as followers of his column in *The Times* will know, is a puritan among bridge writers. On the other hand, he is a remarkably good writer, and his book needs to be answered one way or another if confidence in the processes of justice is to be maintained.

So many for the objective, the book? The crime it describes was sordid and vicious and there are in-criminating coincidences which the author admits, stretch credulity. On the night of Saturday, July 5, 1963, two hooded men broke into a bungalow at 49 in Scotland and attacked and robbed Mr and Mrs Abraham Ross, a bingo hall owner and his wife. Mrs Ross died of her injuries. Mr Ross lay bound and blindfolded on the floor of his room he heard the two robbers calling out names, Pat and Jimmy. That same evening he was taken to the book, some miles away in Stranraer Patrick Meehan and James Griffiths, a criminal with a long and violent record, was "casing" the motor tax office, when he was seen by a police officer. A statement, and Mr Ross "recognizing" his voice at an identity parade, Meehan was arrested. When police went after

Cracks in the Crown evidence

A Presumption of Innocence

The Amazing Case of Patrick Meehan

By Ludovic Kennedy

(Gollancz, £3.75)

Ludovic Kennedy, author of *Ten Rillington Place*, has produced another "Who didn't do it". It is centred upon the case of Patrick Meehan, a Glasgow wife-beater, who is serving life imprisonment for a murder he vehemently insists he did not commit. If it is biased towards the convicted man it is, according to Mr Kennedy, because most inquiries into the case have so far been biased against him.

The evidence at the trial, which the author takes through selectively, and evidence which has emerged subsequently, leaves the impression that there is indeed doubt surrounding the "facts" from which Patrick Meehan has not fully benefited. The book is a compactly presented account designed less to entertain than to generate pressure among public and politicians for an independent inquiry into the case. As a re-telling between hard covers it sets out not only to demonstrate cracks in the Crown evidence but actually presents the alleged culprit complete with alleged confession.

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safe, thoroughly examined by police at the Ross home on July 7 and 8 and found to be empty on August 21 contained two dry scraps of paper. These fragments matched scraps discovered by police in a car owned by Griffiths. The evidence linked Griffiths to the crime and, by implication, his accomplice Patrick Meehan.

Mr Kennedy admits the police in the Glasgow area have an unenviable job dealing with some of the most brutal violence in Britain. On the whole he says they succeed with courage, patience and good humour. But in the case of Patrick Meehan the question should be asked: did the officers, in their zeal to see justice done, to put behind bars the man whom they genuinely believed was responsible for a horrible crime, do or say anything they should not have done? It is Mr Kennedy's contention there are prima facie grounds for thinking so. He says an independent inquiry should find out.

Since the trial a detailed confession by another man has been made while Meehan, because of his previous record, according to Mr Kennedy, been in solitary confinement longer than any other prisoner in the United Kingdom in modern times. As testimony to the personal belief in Meehan's innocence his counsel and four solicitors who have acted for him have provided forewords to the book, all of them supporting a move to re-open the case.

Ronald Faux

Scottish Correspondent

Torments of times past

Death, Disease and

Famine in

Pre-Industrial England

New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

NO HASTE TO EUROPEAN UNITY

Mr Leo Tindemans's report on "European Union", published yesterday, is not likely to set any of Europe's rivers on fire. It bears the hallmark of its author's moderate and conciliatory temperament, and it is clear that one of his main preoccupations in writing it was to avoid proposing anything which any of the nine governments would be likely to reject out of hand. Since any one of the nine has the power to prevent any of his suggestions from being adopted, that was reasonable enough, but the effect is to make the general tone of his report so cautious as to leave little impact on the reader and, one may fear, little impact on the European Community itself.

Yet Mr Tindemans himself believes that he is proposing a series of "qualitative changes" in the life of the Community, such that the resulting European Union would be different in kind from the European Community that we now have. The key to his thinking is perhaps contained in the point which he lists last among six "components" of the concept of "European Union": "Like the Community whose objectives it pursues and whose attainments it protects, European Union will be built gradually. Indeed, he does not seem to envisage even a symbolic moment of inauguration, comparable to the signature of the Treaty of Rome. His European Union will creep on us almost imperceptibly."

The process may even have started already, with the institution of those forms of cooperation between members of the Community that are not envisaged in the Treaties—notably the coordination of foreign policies and the regular meetings of heads of government as the "European Council". Both these institutions are ones on which Mr Tindemans seeks to build. He proposes, for a start, "to put an end to the distinction which still exists today between ministerial meetings which deal with political cooperation and those which deal with the subjects covered by the Treaties". (This distinction was always somewhat artificial, and since the death of President Pompidou has already ceased to exist for most practical purposes.) And "he

seeks to strengthen the role of the European Council by proposing that it should always indicate the institution or organization entrusted with executing its decisions—and if necessary also the time-scale—and by making the Council of Ministers (Foreign Affairs) formally responsible for the preparation of its meetings. These proposals are typical both in their extremely unspectacular nature and in the hint which they give of Mr Tindemans's impatience (widely shared by his colleagues) at the way in which past "decisions" have been left hanging without any follow-up.

Recognizing that progress towards a common foreign policy has been one of the more encouraging aspects of European cooperation in the last few years, Mr Tindemans seeks to extend this cooperation to all external economic relations, and also to change the political commitment of the Member States which is the basis of political cooperation into a legal obligation: thus each State would not merely undertake, but be obliged "as a general rule not to take up final positions (on important foreign policy questions) without prior consultation with its partners". This too seems a fairly harmless requirement, to which no government can strongly object.

More controversial will be the proposal that, once the States have defined the broad outlines of their policy within the European Council, the Council (of Ministers) will then have the obligation to reach a common decision on specific aspects. As he says, "this obviously means that the minority must rally to the views of the majority at the conclusion of a debate". One can imagine certain issues—for instance the definition of a common attitude to the Palestine Liberation Organisation—on which not all governments would yet be prepared to bow to a majority verdict in this way. One may hope, on the other hand, that Mr Wilson and Mr Callaghan can now tacitly accept the implied rebuke in Mr Tindemans's plea "that come what may we appear united at multilateral negotiations relating to a new world economic order".

The statement that "European Union will not be complete until

it has drawn up a common defence policy" may still raise some hackles, but it is quickly followed by the admission that we are "unlikely to be able to do so in the near future"; and again the practical proposals—exchanges of views and cooperation in the manufacture of armaments—are scarcely revolutionary. One thoroughly sensible suggestion is taken to obtain the understanding and support of European countries outside the Community "which have a democratic system similar to ours". But perhaps Mr Tindemans himself displays a certain lack of such sensitivity when he goes on to propose that the European currency "Snake" should operate and be controlled entirely within the Community—i.e. presumably in the absence of the non-EEC countries which at present participate in the Snake (Norway and Sweden). By contrast his recognition that certain EEC countries must be left outside the Snake for the time being, and that monetary union cannot be willed into existence unless and until economic and financial gaps between members are significantly narrowed, can only be welcomed on this side of the Channel and beyond the Alps.

What the British Government will probably not like, but should perhaps force itself to accept, is the proposal that "recourse to majority voting in the Council should become normal practice in the Community field", and that similarly "in those sectors of external relations where the Member States have undertaken to pursue a common policy... minority opinion should rally to the view of the majority at the end of the discussion". What it will also dislike is Mr Tindemans's tendency to present European Union as a good in itself, rather than as something which may or may not be the end result of policies and processes adopted for their own sake. In that, however, he is probably representative of majority opinion on the continent; and perhaps in time even the British public will come to find the tangible benefits of Community life more attractive in a wrapping of European Vision.

GUIDANCE FOR MUNICIPAL HOUSING

Housing is a field where sudden shifts of official policy are especially frequent and especially harmful. Uncertainty about the future makes private builders and local authorities alternately timorous and rash, and disturbs what ought to be the steady pace of activity in rehabilitation and construction. The present Government has been particularly apt to change its mind, in particular with vacillations last year over the share of encouragement that should be allotted to local authority lending for mortgages on one hand and spending on purchase and improvement on the other. Yesterday's early indication of the emphasis that councils are expected to favour next year is at any rate a gesture towards steadiness, supposing wider pressures allow the intentions to stand.

The overall scale of spending in these categories has already been laid down by Mr Healey, and is less than what is allocated to be spent this year. The policy amounts to a guarded revival of municipalization and rehabilitation as against lending to house-buyers. In real terms the same amount of money will be allotted to municipalization next year as this—more than is likely to have been spent after the reversals of policy—and almost as much to conversion and improvement. For lending, less will be allocated than this year—and far less than

the amount that was in fact lent by councils pouring out mortgages in the early part of last year.

Since many local authorities were spending quite irresponsibly for both purposes last year, the mere distribution of the subsidy between the two gives no assurance that it will be used in an effective way. But so long as the money that goes to acquisition and improvement is not squandered on doctrinaire excesses, there is good reason for concentrating support on that rather than on council mortgages. The building societies are well off for funds at the moment—in fact they are almost finding it easier to borrow money than to lend it. There is a little more activity in the private market than there was, but buyers remain cautious, and there is no general excess of demand for local authorities to meet.

There is also some evidence that building societies have been more active than used to be thought in the risky parts of the market that councils concentrate on as a social service. The societies themselves estimate that upwards of one fifth of their loans are made on houses built before 1919, and more than a quarter go to borrowers enjoying less than the average income of a manual worker. Some societies remain much more timid than others, however.

But municipalization is a word that fell into justified discredit last year. Some councils, particularly in London, bought out property at inflated prices much faster than they could hope to rehabilitate it. The illusion of the transformation of privately owned slums into public owned ones is a worthwhile enterprise in itself is still not extinct. The money that was spent on this activity would have been better employed building new houses and repairing old ones on the verge of passing beyond repair. At the same time subsidies allocated to conversion and improvement were too often spent on aging council estates that may have been dreary but were not in the least danger of being lost to the stock.

But if these activities receive too little support while new building is encouraged as a matter of policy, as it is now, then councils are given a motive to demolish and rebuild dwellings that could have been saved at less real economic and social cost. In seeking to foster the less drastic alternative, the Government is alive to some of the dangers. It will seek to ensure that activity is concentrated on older houses and in areas of acute stress. Every councillor and official is aware how greatly the economic prospect has changed. It will be up to them to make the most of the limited funds that are to spare.

Price of potatoes

From Mr E. B. Byron Jones
Sir, I imagine that the housewife must find it difficult to appreciate the validity of the recent official pronouncement that the rate of inflation and the cost of living have been falling for the last two months, when the price of three items of food essential in most households, namely bread, milk and potatoes has risen sharply during the same period.

When the weekly wage increase was limited to 2s Mr Wilson promised that a similar wage would be kept on potatoes, particularly of food, but one seems to have waited in vain for action to curb the fabulous increase in the price of potatoes.

It has been stated that, compared with last year, the potato yield was, owing to the dry summer months, down by about a third. Seed potatoes were plentiful and inexpensive last spring, and the price of fertilizers has apparently remained fairly stable during the past year. Besides, stable manure is generally used for potato planting. Agricultural wages have risen during the period, but by comparison with other produce, potatoes do not require much attention from planting to harvesting.

In these circumstances, I would have thought that Mrs Shirley Williams's department would have directed some enquiry as to why potatoes are now being sold in the shops at about four times the price for the corresponding period a year ago. The farmers claim that they are receiving only a small share of the remarkable difference.

Yours faithfully,
E. B. BYRON JONES

English landscape

From Mrs Ruth Colyer
Sir, Mr Faulds and Mr Perry have focused attention on the urgent need for a grant system and legislation which will arrest the depopulation of much of lowland England's natural beauty. In 1967 the Civic Amenities Act helped to arrest the depopulation of urban areas of "special architectural or historical interest", which could be designated as "conservation areas".

Could not the principle be extended to the countryside? The most cherished landscape areas in each neighbourhood could be designated, and agricultural changes of land use within them brought within normal planning control.

It seems anomalous that a new darning window needs planning permission, but the conversion of 500 acres of ecologically valuable downland into a barley prairie does not. Yours faithfully,
RUTH COLYER,
Orchardene,
Shillingstone,
Blandford, Dorset.

The European anthem

From Mr D. A. Campbell
Sir, Rather than attempt to sing Schiller's "Ode to Joy" in the unfortunate version provided by D. A. T. Dick (December 31), our contribution to European unity in 1976 could more profitably be a resolve to understand the language and the music of the European anthem which is taken.

Yours sincerely,
D. A. CAMPBELL,
Haimstrasse 6.

Industrial design

From Mr Victor Ross
Sir, Sir Ore Arup (January 3) dismisses the designer's concept. "Ignore the salesman", he counsels, "forget the undisciplined buyer, the designer knows best." British industry is littered with examples of mismatched designs—from Coocorde to cocktail cabinets—which lack for nothing except willing buyers.

The truth is, of course, that good design in a commercial sense—begins with an understanding of what the customer wants, not what someone else thinks he ought to have.

"Lasting performance" is no more a criterion of good design than the quality of being green. What the customer seeks is gratification, which is produced by the interaction of price and perceived value in which durability and colour may or may not play a part. This is not a matter for Sir Ore to decide. The industrial designer's job is to find a solution in which customer preferences and technical feasibility are brought into balance as a profit to the manufacturer.

The lesson has been learnt abroad where there is no doubt about the customer's supremacy and the importance of research and salesman's instinct. If we are to regain some of our lost advantage in satisfying the customer, we had better shed the dangerous fallacy that good design in industry represents some objective standard when all our competitors know that its success is measured by the extent to which it gives subjective satisfaction in the mass market.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR ROSS,
10 Templewood Avenue, NW2.

Foreign Office role in export drive

From Lord Pritchard

Sir, May I be permitted strongly to support Lord Gore-Booth's letter in your columns today (January 7) and to pay a sincere tribute to the work of the members of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Diplomatic Service, both at home and abroad?

Both as Chairman of the British National Export Council and as President of the Institute of Export, I learnt at first hand and through the many members of those organizations, of the real and valuable support provided by the members of our Diplomatic Service at all levels to the work of the Institute. It is to go out into the world markets and earn foreign currency for Britain.

It would indeed be a tragedy for our export drive if the relatively small amount of government expenditure at a time when so desperately need exports—both visible and invisible. Indeed it is long overdue for the hard work done by our overseas posts to be more adequately rewarded than the reverse.

DEREK PRITCHARD,
House of Lords.

From Mr Rupert Evans

Sir, Having raised the issue of diplomatic immunity from inflation and income tax in relation to boarding school fees for children of members of the Foreign Service in your column in November, I was interested to read Lord Gore-Booth's letter (January 7) in defence of his troops.

In numbered paragraph 7 of his letter he admits that diplomats have privileges but infers that they are exempt from taxation or overburdened by long separation from children of school age and by the need to be on call 24 hours a day seven days a week, although I would have thought these burdens are not unknown to, for example, members of the armed services, those in the medical profession, and business men trying to sell or market British goods abroad.

In order that the air may be cleared on the topic of school fees, perhaps Lord Gore-Booth or a member of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office would be good enough to answer the following three questions:

(1) What is the gross annual remuneration of a married diplomat of councillor rank (gross pay £10,235) on a home posting who has a son at a boarding public school, and a daughter at a boarding preparatory school, assuming that the fees of each school are sufficient to entitle him to the maximum educational allowances of £1,231, £1,117 and £1,164 for each respective child? My calculation is that to produce an extra £272 a year free of income tax for a man already earning £10,235 a year, would require a gross earned income in excess of £20,000 a year.

(2) The pay of a councillor earning £10,235 a year, I believe, arrived at after deducting some notional annual sum to represent the cost of his non-contributory index-linked pension. What is this notional sum?

(3) What would be the answer to question (1) if the councillor's basic gross pay was assumed to be £10,235 plus the notional sum produced in answer to question (2)?
Yours faithfully,
RUPERT EVANS,
7 New Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

Buckingham degrees

From Mr C. O. L. Ramsden

Sir, I welcome your realistic, if not entirely optimistic, assessment of the problems still facing us at Buckingham (leading article, January 5), although the expression "academic enthusiasm" hardly applies to the many persons in all walks of life who have made our present modest start possible.

The fact that the CNA has not validated our degrees has not deterred support which we have proposed licence as the equivalent of a BA degree by other universities, by the Council for Legal Education, by the Law Society, and by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. Moreover, the position in fact that the trade is awaiting the findings of the office of fair trading, and the government department responsible, as to the precise legal status of the premium.

Mr Phillips's optimistic account of the state of the market reflects

The individual's right to work

From Mr Robert Moss

Sir, I am disturbed by the argument of Mr Alan Campbell, QC (Letters, January 6) that we must accept serious curtailment of the right to work through the spread of the closed shop because "a majority of those most clearly affected" wish this to be so. Those most clearly affected, in the first place, are neither the employers nor the trade unions that Mr Campbell mentions. They are individuals, including members of professional associations and smaller unions outside the TUC, who are now told that the right to work is not an absolute right, as it was always held to be under Common Law and as defined in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but as something in the gift of a shop steward.

Right to do not cease to exist because they cease to be enforceable; they cease to be respected, and society, as a result, becomes less free. But is the right to work enforceable, as Mr Campbell says? In a revealing article in your pages last month, Mr R. J. Harvey, QC, argued the contrary—the supremacy of the ancient common law doctrine, which has been boldly upheld by Lord Denning in some notable judgments.

It is doubtful whether the new legislation designed to render the means for conscripting individuals into unions non-tortious will actually be held to overrule common law. For one thing, the method

employed (in essence, in a broader definition of "trade dispute") does not appear to cover closed shop arrangements agreed between employers and trade unions. This is an argument for the lawyers, but it provides hope for future litigation. The National Association for Freedom is willing to assist in cases where the individual's right to work has been seriously abused.

It is depressing to find a lawyer who has taken silk reflecting a widespread, but usually unspoken, assumption about British society: that we are destined to become a corporate state, and that the sooner we get there, the sooner we can have good industrial relations and peace throughout the land.

I fully agree with Mr Campbell that we should aim to strengthen and support responsible trade union leaders, but not by the course that he recommends. The suppression of the right to work and the continued strengthening of corporate interests at the expense of society as a whole will merely produce the business conditions that, precisely, a British variant of Peronism, the brand of left-wing corporatism that served to stifle all economic initiative in Argentina and brought about that country's present condition of undeclared civil war.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT MOSS, Director,
National Association for Freedom,
Suite 63, Kent House,
57 Regent Street, W1,
January 6.

Malta's economy

From the High Commissioner for Malta

Sir, Your Special Report on Malta (The Times, December 13, 1975) did not reflect the actual situation. May I be permitted to rectify this.

The Labour Government assumed office in June, 1971, at a time when a disruptive property boom had burst, unemployment stood at 5.146 (4.8 per cent) and wasteful emigration and over-staffing in the public and private sectors were the main problems. The infrastructure was incomplete. The Malta Dry Dock, the island's main enterprise, was in shambles.

The Labour Government concluded a realistic Defence Agreement with Britain to the mutual satisfaction of both countries, gave Malta a new identity, culminating in the peaceful transition to a Republic within the Commonwealth. The island's main enterprise, the Dry Dock, has been successfully established. Salvageable industries were set to rights. Broadcasting and communications were localized. So was banking, in co-operation and association with major financial institutions.

By efficiently deploying the labour force that were set up and with a minimum of capital expenditure, a sound infrastructure was built. A state-owned airline was established. Line have been successfully established. Salvageable industries were set to rights. Broadcasting and communications were localized. So was banking, in co-operation and association with major financial institutions.

The industrial and tourist sectors expanded more than anticipated under the 1973-80 Development Plan. In 1974 manufacturing output rose in value by 31 per cent over 1973, more than twice the 1970 level. Industrial exports reached 5.7 per cent of GDP (20.8 per cent in 1970), which expanded by 8.8 per cent in real terms in 1974. Total exports jumped from £M16.1 million to £M51.6 million between 1970 and 1974.

London art market

From the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association

Sir, May I take issue with Mr Henry Phillips's naive and confused letter (January 7) on the future of the London art market. The overwhelming majority of art and antique dealers would in fact agree with Mrs Geraldine Norman's view (December 23) that the "art market" may be shifting out of London.

The reasons for this, we believe, are the new 10 per cent premium imposed on buyers in certain London public auctions which, contrary to Mr Phillips's claim, has not been accepted by dealers. The present position in fact that the trade is awaiting the findings of the office of fair trading, and the government department responsible, as to the precise legal status of the premium.

Mr Phillips's optimistic account of the state of the market reflects

Individual freedom

From the Headmaster of Loretto

Sir, After Dingle Foot's spirited article in the Labour-Liberal efforts on behalf of the freedom of the press, it is refreshing to read his next, revealing his heart bleeding for the Ferrybridge 35. This to be followed, no doubt, with a dedicated blistering attack on the new docks scheme which would snatch a fair living from traders serving the community and disorientally band it to the Great Dock House, thus further increasing this monopoly's stranglehold on our (the people's) food supplies.

R. B. BRUCE LOCKHART,
Musselburgh,
East Lothian.

Soviet travel visas

From Mrs Marylin Matthews

Sir, Mr Bernard Levie performs a valuable service in drawing our readers' attention to the appalling way in which dissidents are treated in the USSR and other countries of the Communist block. May I add a brief comment on another, somewhat neglected, aspect of personal freedom in Russia.

I came to England in 1969 as a Soviet citizen, after marrying a British subject. For the past three years I have been attempting to get permission from the Soviet authorities for my elderly mother, who lives in Moscow, to visit my family here. People used to democratic government might expect the Soviet authorities to show this individual particular consideration. She has never broken any Soviet

law, but was imprisoned and exiled for 12 years, until 1949. My father was awarded the Order of Lenin for his party work in 1930, shot in 1937, and apologetically "rehabilitated" with my mother in 1956.

Despite this, she has just been refused an exit visa for the third time. Two applications we have made ourselves to travel to Moscow as a family have also been turned down, once after the Soviet Embassy in London had actually issued the travel documents.

I write to you because our case is by no means unique. Many Soviet citizens are still prevented from visiting relatives in this country for lack of Soviet exit visas. Neither can they visit, for Soviet wives living abroad, issued freely, in the sphere of reuniting families the Soviet signature of the "Helsinki Agreement" last August does not seem to have led to any significant relaxation of the old absurd restrictions.

I remain, yours faithfully,
LUDMILLA BIBIKOVA
(MATTHEWS),
7 Alderney Street, SW1.

Anniversaries in 1976

From Miss Norah Shutter

Sir, May I suggest that to your interesting and comprehensive list should be added the name of "The Queen of the Desert", Lady Hester Stanhope, who was born at Chavening on March 12, 1776.

Yours faithfully,
NORAH SHUTTER,
17 Bessels Way,
Bessels Green,
Near Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Mrs Evelyn M. Davies
Sir, Recently a man's shop in Rue du Faubourg St Honoré played a sardonic collection of "Attached to a nozze" "Tres and presque cad".

Yours sincerely,
EVELYN M. DAVIES,
Reform Club,
Pal Mall, SW1

London's lost jobs and population

From Mr David Hall

Sir, The recent proposal from GLC leader, Sir Reg Goodwin (reported January 3) that the council should reverse its policy of encouraging movement to move to new and expanded towns is misconceived and, in any case, doomed to fail.

London's lost jobs and population

From Mr David Hall

Sir, The recent proposal from GLC leader, Sir Reg Goodwin (reported January 3) that the council should reverse its policy of encouraging movement to move to new and expanded towns is misconceived and, in any case, doomed to fail.

Since the mid-1960s London has lost population at the rate of about 100,000 per annum and jobs broadly in proportion. What these people and firms have principally been escaping from is the excessive cost of London as a home or workplace, a cost which is primarily brought about by too many people and activities competing for too little space, thus pushing up land values and rents of all kinds. Therefore, to claw some of the people and firms back would only make matters worse.

But the GLC does, in fact, have very little control over the situation because only a small proportion (about 15 per cent) of the total outward movement that the GLC wishes to prevent is in the new and expanded towns. Thus the bulk of the outward movement would continue unrestrained.

Moreover, it should not be supposed that the new and expanded towns will themselves acquiesce in a policy which would waste much of the investment already put into sewers, water supply and roads, etc., which are not yet used to capacity. Also, some of them have shown themselves very able in attracting people and firms from London without any help from the GLC.

As to what policy should now be adopted, it is no use our imagining there is any easy solution. However, it should not be forgotten that the main objective of dispersing people and jobs from London is and always has been to make possible the provision of better and more spacious living and working conditions. To do this has so far been missed through bad administration, bad government and bad planning, this objective should still form the basis of planning policy for London. Unless it does, we shall not only drive out the business activity that legitimately should stay in the metropolis, but exacerbate an economic and social environment already hostile to those who cannot move out.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HALL, Director,
Town and Country Planning
17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1,
January 6.

No POW reunion

From Mr E. J. Coffey

Sir, In your article published today (January 6), "Anglo-Japanese reunion plan for River Kwa bridge", it is stated that a M. Graham of Tokyo received a letter from a POW association in London claiming that many former British servicemen were interested in meeting their former guards.

I wish to state categorically that no such letter was sent by an official of this club neither have we had any correspondence in any way with Mr Nagase. Furthermore, M. Graham Reynolds who is mentioned in the article was not a POW and has no authority from this club to make any statements on its behalf.

As a matter of interest, there is no such river as the Kwa, it is a name that was thought up by a Frenchman who wrote a book about the River Kwai. There was however a bridge built over the river Kwai at Tamarkan in which POWs had more than a vested interest.

Yours sincerely,
E. J. COFFEY, President,
The Far East Prisoner-of-War Club (1941-45),
57 Greenhays Avenue,
Banstead, Surrey,
January 6.

Franglairs

From Mr T. D. Kingdom

Sir, You write (January 6) about "ravings of le franglairs during 1918 twenty or thirty years". I began in a small way much earlier. I remember reading in a provincial newspaper nearly fifty years ago about an accident caused by a railway train. "Le watanman, n'a pas pu arrêter le train, et il a été tué." I was then a young man, and I was confined to the dormitory of a school, but certainly goods of a kind referred to in this country as "de lux" would often in France carry a label high life, pronounced to rhyme with fig leaf. But the day was to come when our neighbours introduced food rationing and, for the first time, the problem of "franglairs" was a reality for the English world "coupon", brilliantly came with ticket.

Yours faithfully,
T. D. KINGDOM,
2 Grosvenor Road,
Northwood,
Middlesex,
January 6.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



The task facing Mr Healey, Peter Jay page 16

Mr Healey says IMF plan will increase Britain's borrowing limit

From Frank Vogl Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 7

Britain will be able to increase the amount of cash it can borrow from the International Monetary Fund as a result of an agreement which worked out at the IMF conference of finance ministers here.

Mr Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he could not estimate just how large the increase in Britain's IMF credit line will be.

Under discussion is a plan to raise all credit lines by one-third, but sources said, if the plan is based on new quota arrangements, then Britain's increase will be less than that available to many other countries.

Other sources suggested, however, that it might be a surprise across the board rise of one-third. Britain's present borrowing limit is 2,800 million special drawing rights (one SDR equals \$1.7, or £0.57).

The United States and West Germany oppose a credit line increase, fearing that they will just add to world financial liquidity and fuel international inflation. However, at a breakfast given by Mr Healey today for the finance ministers of the United States, France, West Germany, Japan and Italy, it was agreed that the increase should be allowed to assure support for the developing countries for major international monetary reform agreements here dealing with gold and exchange rates.

Mr Healey said he is hopeful that a full package of measures could be worked out here. This package involves 5,000 million SDR of new finance for developing countries, the start of a four-year programme of next month of IMF sales of up to 25 million ounces of gold, the start next month of the re-signing to IMF members of a further 25 million ounces of gold, the one-third IMF credit line increase until the new IMF quota increases of 5,000 million SDR, take effect in 1977; changes in IMF articles

to officially permit floating exchange rates; and changes in the official role for gold in the monetary system.

The conference is due to end late tomorrow and full agreement on all points of the package seems assured. Some officials at the IMF fear, however, that by the last minute it could be wrecked by demands from developing countries for even more financial assistance.

Mr Healey told journalists here that while the world economy looks certain to recover this year, the financing problems of the developing countries would become much more acute. He said these countries had already drawn down their "reserves", increased their private and public agency indebtedness and still faced a possible current account balance of payments deficit in 1976 of some \$31,900m.

Mr Healey said the 5,000 million SDR of new finance would be composed of the 2,750 million SDR of new IMF credit lines, 1,750 million SDR of fresh funds through an expansion of the IMF's special facility for commodity-exporting countries, and 500 million SDR from the profits this year from IMF gold sales.

He suggested that the 500 million SDR gold sale profit figure may prove to be too low. He expected this to be the average annual profit obtained by the IMF from the sale of gold over the next four years. About 71 million ounces of this gold, however, may not be sold, but simply transferred directly to the developing countries.

Informed sources suggested that disagreements between major countries over whether or not to allow the IMF gold to be used by the IMF for international settlements as an agent, appear to be resolved and that the IMF may well play an active role on the behalf of some central banks.

On maintaining the current sales of gold, the fact of the matter is that the IMF sales will depress free market levels, Mr Healey said, it was clearly in the interest of governments holding gold today, and expected to be in the future, to ensure that the IMF market price falls as little as possible.

Another tap stock runs out in rush for gilts

By Melvyn Winstlake

Spurred on by the prospect of further falls in interest rates on both sides of the Atlantic, the buying of Government bonds reached a high pitch on the Stock Exchange yesterday, driving prices up by as much as £13.7 in some cases, and exhausting the second "tap" stock in two consecutive days.

Stockjobbers described buying as very heavy and persistent throughout the session. The advance in bond prices has been accelerating all this week and gains of some £3.50, or about 4 per cent, have been recorded since Friday on some of the sharpest rising stocks.

With the exhaustion of the short-term "tap" stock, the Government Broker feeds to the market from the official portfolio — the market is now in the unusual position of being completely without such a stock.

This follows the exhaustion on Tuesday of the long-dated "tap". These two stocks, the Treasury 10½ per cent 1979A and the Treasury 13½ per cent 1997, together represent £1,350m of bond sales to the market.

Dealing estimated that between £200m and £400m of this had been sold by the Government Broker in the first few trading days of the new year. This will further help in the financing of the high Government Budget which at a time when the Government programme is already believed to be going much better than hoped a few months ago.

But it also has considerable implications for the money supply. Earlier large Government bond issues have contributed to a contraction in the money stock in late October and early November, and the present sales must be expected to have a large impact again this month.

In addition to the big sales made already this year, estimates by one City broker suggest that perhaps £4,500m of "tap" stocks may have been sold last year.

Although this is a good deal less than the total public sector borrowing requirement now expected to be between £10,000m and £11,000m for the current financial year, much of the balance is financed in other ways, and total sales of bonds since April last year must now be close to meeting the Government's target.

However, the market is expected that at least one and perhaps two new "tap" stocks will be announced on Friday. The Bank of England would now seem to be faced with a dilemma between selling too much stock too quickly and thus depressing the growth of the money stock too much, and, on the other hand, needing to meet the market's demand for stock.

If it does not do the latter it has no means of controlling the market and creating orderly conditions.

Banks 'in dispute' over Stern shares

By Margaret Walters

A dispute is believed to be taking place among a number of banks which are creditors of Mr William Stern and parts of his collapsed property empire, over which of them has the right to a large holding of shares in Dares Estates, pledged by Mr Stern as security for loans.

A report on the matter, which involves Sterling Industrial Securities, a small merchant bank now being wound down by the Crown Agents, is understood to have been sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions some weeks ago.

It sets out how, in 1972, Sterling Industrial, which had lent Mr Stern or his companies some £1.5m secured on shares

in Nordon Ltd—the life assurance offshoot of the Stern empire which went into liquidation last year—requested additional cover of \$675,000 for its loan.

Mr Stern agreed to one of the suggestions put forward by Sterling to pledge his and his wife's holding of 2 million deferred shares in Dares Estates, the household name group, which was one of the few publicly-quoted parts of the Stern group.

But, some two months ago, when an undisclosed bidder for Dares emerged, the Sterling board discovered that the share certificates, now worth only a few thousand pounds, were in fact the possession of the National Westminster and Guarantee London Trust.

Mr Stern recently told The Times that Sterling had released the shares. It is understood that the loan arrangements were

renewed from time to time until March, 1974, two months before the group's collapse, when a request to Mr Stern to reaffirm the security apparently went unanswered.

The letter was eventually produced a few weeks ago, after the Sterling board's discovery about the share certificates, signed by Mr Stern, but with the passages relating to the Dares Estates shares crossed out.

This is claimed, followed by a verbal agreement with Mr Sidney Davidson, Sterling's former managing director.

Mr Davidson left the Sterling Industrial group early last year after publicly over the merchant bank's relationship with the Crown Agents, who owed some 30 per cent of its share capital.

It was discovered that the Crown Agents had lent some £1.75m to a private company, Big City Finance, substantially owned by Mr Sidney Finley, a Sterling director, with Mr Davidson.

Substantial sums of money had been lent by Big City to Mr Bernard Wheatley, the Crown Agents' money market manager, as well as to Mr Davidson. The Crown Agents are one of the largest creditors of the Stern group, with loans of more than £50m outstanding.

The question of who now owns the Dares shares is complicated by the reconstruction of the group's share capital in the winter of 1973 and the replacement of the 2 million deferred shares by 1.5 million ordinary shares, and after the renewal letter in 1974.

It is the share certificates of these latter shares which are with the National Westminster and Guarantee London Trust.

Cable groups will open books to PO

By Malcolm Brown

The four leading cable manufacturers who operated an unregistered price ring in Post Office cables have given in to the corporation's demands for access to their books and records.

In return the Post Office has dropped its nine-month freeze on the letting of external cable contracts.

The corporation will now start what is expected to be a prolonged examination of the books of the four companies—British Insulated Callender's Cables, Standard Telephones and Cables, Pirelli General, and Telephone Cables, an affiliate of the General Electric Company—in determining whether there has been any overcharging.

If overcharging is found the Post Office will seek compensation either by negotiation or through the courts.

An undertaking has been given to the corporation that future tenders will be submitted on a competitive basis. The Post Office has insisted, however, that as part of the price of removing the embargo on new contracts, the companies should allow the corporation continuing access to their books.

Existence of the price ring was disclosed in The Times last March. Details of the agreements operated by the companies were filed with the Office of Fair Trading and last November the Restrictive Practices Court issued an order forbidding the operation of price agreements in trading agreements.

The Post Office has been involved in months of discussions with the companies about the opening of books and records. It is not known what amount of business has been lost during the contract freeze, but it is substantial.

Legal wrangle ends dental merger

By Our Financial Staff

An agreed merger between the dental groups A. D. International and America's Dentistry International is off.

It was apparently killed by a legal wrangle over the ranking of loans between the Commercial Union-trustees of ADI's convertible loan stock—and the American banks which were to put up the £10.8m cash portion of Dentistry's £18m offer.

In an unexpected announcement to The Stock Exchange yesterday, Mr Henry Thornton, Dentistry's chairman, reported that the proposed offer had been withdrawn.

The Takeover Panel which, along with the Monopolies Commission, had given its consent to the bid, has permitted Dentistry to abandon its ADI shares, raising high since the proposed offer was first announced last August, slumped by 20p to 85p on the news.

Mr Thornton flew back to the United States at midday yesterday amid talk of continued close collaboration between Dentistry and ADI, who co-operate in the production and marketing of dental products all over the world.

But Mr Patrick Burgin, ADI's chairman, made it clear that these links would remain trading ones, and that these were

no immediate hopes of reviving the merger.

Negotiations over the position of ADI's loan stock and the United States banks' guarantees in the proposed combined group began to run aground some days ago.

Mr Burgin then pointed out to Dentistry that over the past three years the British company had been growing faster than Dentistry and that as far as the American group was concerned the bid could turn out to be a "now or never situation".

The wrangle between the United States banks and lawyers for the Commercial Union showed no signs of being resolved earlier this week.

And as a further delay in producing the formal offer, Dentistry produced undated profit figures for the United States Securities and Exchange Commission, and eventually would have forced ADI to update its figures for the benefit of shareholders, an interminable delay seemed to be on the cards.

Dentistry, therefore, decided to accept the inevitable.

The fact that an apparent technicality killed the merger "absolutely amazed" the ADI board.

\$300m loan for Frigg financing

By Christopher Villkins

A major credit for the Frigg gas field in the North Sea is expected to be syndicated among banks in the Eurodollar market soon. The loan is expected to be for between \$300m (about £150m) and \$400m.

It follows an earlier seven-year financing of \$300m for Frigg, arranged last January.

It has not yet been decided which banks will form the management group for the loan, but some of those involved in the previous deal will probably be concerned. These include Morgan Guaranty Trust, National Westminster Bank, Société Générale, Banque Paribas, Bank of America and Chase Manhattan Bank.

It is believed that the present loan will be structured differently from the previous one. This was split into two parts of \$150m each. This time there is expected to be just one loan on behalf of the four main Frigg operators, Total, Elf, Agip and Shell.

One of the developing Frigg complex with pipelines and terminals, is presently projected at £150m.

Oil from troubled waters, page 30

NCB draws up £250m coal for energy plan

By Maurice Corliza Industrial Editor

Whitehall is considering a confidential memorandum from the National Coal Board for saying up to £250m on the balance of payments by providing the generating authorities to burn another 11 million tons of coal in power stations between now and March, 1978.

The document, now in the hands of Mr Wedgwood, the Secretary of State for Energy, but yet to be seen by the Central Electricity Generating Board or the Scottish generating authorities.

The Department of Energy is considering whether to submit the coal board's ideas for a round table conference between the coal and electricity industries, involving both top board members and trade union leaders.

Coal board planners have apparently worked out a scheme to use more solid fuel at four power stations, Northfleet, Burslem, Ham Hall C and West Thurrock, in place of oil and natural gas.

The stations have been selected because of their capability for dual firing and the potential for capital expenditure needed.

It is understood that Mr Benn is sympathetic to the idea. However, Mr Arthur Havers, chairman of the CEBG, will prove a tough adversary if he feels the plan is unacceptable.

There has already been some very hard bargaining over financing stocks of coal at pits to help the coal industry. Mr Benn is under pressure from the National Union of Mineworkers to make some initiative to raise the national coal burn, otherwise efforts to raise coal productivity will suffer.

The document submitted to Whitehall stresses that coal stocks may be getting out of balance with supply.

Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the coal board, and his advisers feel it is wrong that the CEBG should be importing coal. In all, the coal board estimates that 4 million tons of coal could be used in the financial year 1976-1977, with another 7 million tons in the following year. The 12 million tons of additional coal burn is said to represent a balance of payments saving of £250m, helping the nation and assisting the domestic coal industry.

Business appointments, page 17

Chrysler aid interest rate put at 12½pc

By Detroit, Jan 7—Chrysler

Corporation said today that under the British Government's rescue plan, Chrysler UK would pay interest of about 12½ per cent on the £118.8m (about £50m) long-term loans over the next four years.

The interest rate is determined under a formula based on the Government's concessional rate. Chrysler said the actual amount would vary according to fluctuations in the concessional rate and the period of the loan.

After 1980, the interest would increase one or two percentage points.

A \$71.1m medium-term loan must be drawn in 30 days and he used to refinance short-term debt.

Industry orders pick up

By London, Jan 7—The

slow climb out of recession may start within the next few months, when the Confederation of British Industry published its December industrial trends inquiry, a monthly survey supplementing the main quarterly inquiry.

The survey of more than 2,000 manufacturing companies shows that for the first time in 18 months more companies are reporting an increase than a decrease in orders over the past four months.

Some 34 per cent of companies questioned said that there had been an increase over the past four months; 30 per cent said a decrease; leaving a positive balance of 4 per cent. The same pattern was found in exports.

But the CBI stressed that the effects of inflation would have to be taken into account before any conclusions could be drawn. It expressed "modest encouragement" but said that the results did not point to rapid recovery from recession. The best interpretation was that there was some "general stabilisation of activity".

Keymarkets to trim outlets

By London, Jan 7—The

supermarket, the Fitch Lovell supermarket, is to shut 12 of its 50 stores in London by the end of this month. A number of other outlets in the Midlands and the south of England are expected to stop trading within the next few weeks.

A spokesman for the group, which has 300 stores said the shops involved accounted for less than 10 per cent of the total business.

SEC concession on New York securities

By Washington, Jan 7—A

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) official today confirmed agency plans not to require the withdrawal of New York City related companies sold by banks.

Some companies have complained that the SEC's proposed requirement would greatly inhibit the flow of information about corporate prospects.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 162.14+1.83

The FT index: 389.8+5.2

Rises

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Ass Fort Cement 6p to 13sp | J. Lyons | 10p to 130p |
| BHP 5p to 140p | Smith, W. H. | 4p to 35p |
| Britt Exon 4p to 24p | Sigbee 4p to 25p | 4p to 30p |
| Crownthorpe 5p to 27p | UK Props | 2½p to 14p |
| Islands 2p to 28p | Unilever | 6p to 45p |
| Hawker Gld 3p to 25sp | Victors | 6p to 15p |
| Hong K & Sheng 15p to 21½p | | |

Falls

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| US \$ | 2.67 | |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 41.50 | 37.50 |
| Rates for small denomination bank notes in London as supplied yesterday to Bank of International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers cheques and other foreign currency business. | | |
| | | |
| Market reports | | 17. |
| Bank Base Rates Table | | |
| Preliminary Announcement : | | |
| Wholesale | | |

THE POUND

| | Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| | buys | sells |
| Australia \$ | 1.88 | 1.82 |
| Austria Sch | 38.50 | 38.50 |
| Belgium Fr | 40.25 | 40.25 |
| Canada \$ | 2.20 | 2.15 |
| Denmark Kr | 12.80 | 12.40 |
| Finland Mk | 8.00 | 7.75 |
| France Fr | 9.25 | 9.25 |
| Germany DM | 79.00 | 75.00 |
| Greece Dr | 10.40 | 10.00 |
| Italy Lr | 5.25 | 5.10 |
| Japan Yu | 640.00 | 615.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 5.55 | 5.25 |
| Norway Kr | 11.50 | 11.15 |
| Portugal Esc | 71.00 | 61.00 |
| S Africa Rd | 2.05 | 1.88 |
| Spain Ps | 125.00 | 119.50 |
| Sweden Kr | 9.85 | 9.75 |
| Switzerland Fr | 5.40 | 5.20 |
| US \$ | 2.07 | 2.02 |
| Yugoslavia Dnr | 41.50 | 37.50 |

Notes for small denomination bank notes and coins are available from the Bank of England on request.

BP operations in Norway sold for £27m

By Roger Vishvov

British Petroleum's 1,300 petrol stations in Norway, together with its distribution network and its share in a new refinery, have been sold to a new Norwegian state marketing organization.

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Japan and Iran in trade pact

By Tehran, Jan 7—Japan

and Iran agreed today to exchange goods worth \$5,800m (about £3,350m) a year, and broke a long-standing embargo on Japanese exports for construction of a joint petrochemical plant and oil refinery.

SEC concession on New York securities

By Washington, Jan 7—A

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) official today confirmed agency plans not to require the withdrawal of New York City related companies sold by banks.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Implications of lower interest rates

With each day that passes it becomes more and more surprising that the other clearing banks have not moved to emulate Lloyds by dropping their own base rates from 11 to 10 per cent. Any move they may have had about whether the easier trend in interest rates over the Christmas period was freakish must have been well and truly dashed by the performance of the gilt-edged market this week.

Admittedly, it seems improbable that Minimum Lending Rate will fall yet again this Friday. This would be a good news in too short a space of time and would eliminate whatever opportunities might otherwise be open for the Government to sell to the public—used as a device to replace the two deficit "taps" quickly, which some question on the back of a geotly rising market.

But on the basis of the current strength in gilt prices, market expectations are none the less high that the current weeks will see further easing of short rates. Bank lending figures would certainly bear out these hopes and there is also heartening news from the trend in interest rates in the United States, where Federal Reserve Bank target rates for the money market appear to have been lowered and prime rate cuts are widely expected. Meanwhile, Eurodollar rates yesterday dropped to their lowest point since January 1973.

It may be that the banks are right to be worried about the potential borrowing pressures which could arise from the gathering season, but by the same token the corporate sector and the banks themselves are liquid enough to take much of the heat out of this problem.

More justifiable as a cause for caution is how "tap" policy is to be operated from here. It would be remarkable if the Bank of England could resist the temptation generated by the market's present mood to rush out a new tap soon, faced with the risk of missing sales rather than allowing fields to drop.

And while there is doubtless a case in favour of lower interest rates as a means of stimulating the economy again, recent gilt sales have mopped up anything like enough liquidity to remove the fears of an explosion in the money supply if the economy acquires too much momentum too quickly.

amount the IMF intends to sell. Indeed, if the whole amount finds its way into the hands of the world's central banks—and that is the only feasible repository now that private investors have grown cool on gold—that would be an important certainty removed from the market.

Meanwhile, Portugal has at last come clean and confirmed that it has been selling on the free market, something that bullion dealers have been aware of for some time. The amount it admits to—four tons—is not large in comparison with South Africa's weekly sales of 14 tons.

But other countries have also been selling on the free market over the past year, including, of course, Russia (though they have also been a stabilizing influence, buying gold when the price dipped below \$130) and Uruguay and Zaire as well. And in the thin market that gold has now become what has been more than enough to stifle any investment interest at lower prices.

With inflation abating as well as the lure of booming world stock markets, there has been none of the incentive for investors to buy gold that characterized the steep rise in prices over the previous three years. Undoubtedly, inflationary anxieties will prompt another recovery in gold, but that does not look probable until the second half of 1976 at the earliest. Meanwhile, the critical figure the free market will be looking at is the price at which IMF will sell its gold.

If this is correct, holders of gold shares could have a lengthy wait. At the moment, enthusiasm among some brokers for gold shares hinges largely on the supposed relationship between share prices and the price of gold. The curious relationship at the best of times since the shares can only come back into favour if gold does.

Where gold shares do score, however, after their sharp fall away from the peak in the historically attractive yields many of the better quality mines now offer, particularly to investors spared the rigours of the dollar premium.

That alone should make such producers as West Driefontein, Witbank, President Brand and for uranium firms Harbourside as well reasonably compelling case for taking a more active stake in gold yet awhile.

Gold Still doubtful despite the IMF

Gold has a past and a future—but no present. The price has recovered some of its poise since the International Monetary Fund pulled the rug out from under the market by its decision to sell its gold holdings—25 million ounces or the equivalent of just over South Africa's total production last year.

But meandering a few dollars either side of \$140 an ounce, gold has exhibited none of its old vigor and is unlikely to do so until given a push by inflationary pressures.

At present, the market is preoccupied with the outcome of the IMF meeting in Jamaica where the price of gold will be determined by the IMF's disposal of the IMF holdings are being thrashed out. The one certainty in this—and the crucial point so far as investors in gold and gold shares are concerned—is that the gold will be sold in such a way as not to disrupt unduly the free market, where turnover is minuscule in comparison with the

Inflation accounting Adding to the confusion

To start by being unfair to the Accounting Standards Steering Committee, it could scarcely have chosen a more inept heading to its latest press release, "Inflation accounting—adding to the confusion". The only way to stop confusion would, quite simply, be to discourage any further reference to inflation accounting until the standard comes into force towards the end of 1977. Such a move would almost certainly have far more widespread support among companies than is commonly supposed, albeit, I fear, for the wrong reason.

It is, largely because the motives of those companies that drag their heels on the inflation accounting issue are generally so defensive and ill-founded that one can only say that the ASSC has probably adopted the best course. Clearly, the quicker companies move towards current cost accounting practice

McCorquodale Defensive factors

For all that McCorquodale's second pre-tax profits were some £100,000 lower, and the group's directors are talking in terms of trimming capacity to reflect somewhat reduced order book, the shares performed well yesterday, rising by 3p to 23p.

And an 8.45 per cent yield leaves scope for more appreciation, given that last year's net dividends were twice covered, that reduced capacity utilization has checked the growth in working capital requirements—for all that the price of paper has continued to rise—and that planned capital spending is in line with projected cash flow.

Profits, from the looks of it, are going to be down this year; but the downturn should be limited by the highly specialized nature of McCorquodale's business: security printing. The American acquisition, Falconer—something of a disappointment so far—provides the joker in the pack: but that is more than discounted in the share price.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|-----------|
| Final | 1974/75 | (1973/74) |
| Capitalization | £11.8m | |
| Sales | £38.43m | (£27.1m) |
| Pre-tax profits | £2.34m | (£1.92m) |
| Earnings per share | 27p | (20.4p) |
| Dividend gross | 19.6p | (16.9p) |

A year when oil should flow in earnest from its troubled N Sea waters

Roger Vielvoye

Barrios unprecedented offshore disasters, 1976 promises to be the year in which Britain begins to see the first real benefits of North Sea oil.

The first dribble of home-produced crude oil came ashore last year from Hamilton Brook's Argyll discovery and British Petroleum's Forties field. Five more fields are scheduled to join the list over the next 12 months, producing total of between 15 million and 20 million tons of oil during the next year.

Estimates of production must necessarily remain vague, but a series of hold-ups in completing the installation of offshore facilities over the past two months means that the year-end tally is more likely to be closer to the pessimistic 15 million tons rather than to the 20 million tons mark.

Experience has taught designers of oil production facilities to build into the plans every conceivable defence against the towering waves and sudden storms that the North Sea can produce. But, despite all the precautions, the elements can still get on top, as demonstrated when the Mobil group's 480-foot high steel tower for loading oil from the Beryl field broke free from its moorings in early December and drifted towards Norway. This one incident has delayed the "start-up" of the field by at least six months.

Shell Esso's much smaller Auk field has been dogged by a series of weather-induced teething troubles and production is only just beginning. Problems with securing the Piper Field's production platform to the seabed has also delayed the start-up of the field by at least six weeks.

It is problems like these and the ability of the oil company troubleshooters to correct them quickly that will ultimately decide how close to the 20 million tons a year target the fields will come.

From the country's point of view the difference between saving 15 million tons on the oil import bill and 20 million tons a year is a financial loss of £230m. For the companies this represents a loss of valuable cash flow at a time when the industry's resources are stretched.

Shortages of manpower and materials for the construction programme at the onshore stage, that made nonsense of the earlier schedules for bringing oil ashore, are not a vital factor in the final stages of the installation of production facilities for fields that will produce this year.

Planners now tend to allow a larger margin for delays in deliveries and the possibility of last-minute re-design work to accommodate changing requirements. New hold-ups in onshore work will be felt in the schedules for stepping up oil output in 1977 and 1978.

British Petroleum's success in bringing oil ashore by pipeline from the Forties field should ensure that total production does not fall below the 15 million tons estimate. Work has continued on field development throughout the winter and about 5,000 barrels of oil are coming ashore daily.

Drilling of the first well from the second of the four platforms being installed on the field is about to begin, and the overall programme is scheduled to produce an oil flow of 250,000 barrels a day by the summer, a rate that should be improved upon throughout the rest of the year.

Output will build up next year and is expected to reach a maximum of 400,000 barrels a day, which will amount to just under a quarter of Britain's oil requirement of oil.

Oil is also expected to start flowing from the much-delayed Shell/Esso Brent field, north-east of the Shetlands. The first



An offshore pipeline-laying barge at work between the Brent and Cormorant fields.

concrete platform is already there and the offshore tanker loading and storage buoy is expected to be installed in the spring.

Loading oil into tankers will continue until the pipeline system into the Shetland Islands is complete. Sorely miles of pipeline were laid last year, leaving Shell, the operators for the two companies, to put down another 20 miles this year, along with further lines of smaller diameter from the fields in the Brent area into the main transmission system.

One of the few North Sea fields that may come on stream according to its original production schedule is the Amoco group's Montrose field, which lies about 130 miles east of Aberdeen. A single steel production platform has been installed and the development is on target to produce an initial 10,000 barrels a day by the middle of the year, building up to a total of 50,000 barrels a day.

The most serious of the problems facing the oil companies this winter is the future of the Beryl field's offshore loading tower. The giant steel structure broke away from its concrete base on the seabed on December 5 and, although it has been recaptured and towed to safety in Stavanger fjord, it has so far proved impossible to make a detailed inspection of the damage.

The French-built and designed loading buoy pivoted on a seabed universal joint that should have enabled the structure to tilt up to 20 degrees in bad weather and prevent just that kind of accident that happened. Mobil, the operator for the group, says that no estimate of the delay caused by the accident can be made until a proper inspection of the damage has been completed.

Had the tower not broken free, Mobil would have started shipping oil ashore this month. Oil industry sources say that it is unlikely that the buoy can be repaired and reinstated on the oilfield in time to get oil flowing before June.

Problems with the Auk field have been nagging, but not serious. Loading oil on to a tanker started briefly before Christmas but had to be suspended with less than a day's output on board. The vessel is once again on station and is expected to start filling up its tanks again shortly.

The Occidental group's problems on the Piper field have been more serious. Pilgr operations to keep the steel platform steady ran into difficulties because of the softness of the seabed. To try to keep the winter the group had requisited a semi-submersible drilling rig, the Borge Dolphin, as an equipment tender.

Occidental had originally intended to start the flow of oil along the pipeline to Flotta in the Orkney Islands in June, but the difficulties in handling the piling work have forced them to postpone the start date until mid-August or early September. Oil should be flowing at a rate initially of about 75,000 barrels a day.

Most of the interest in exploration drilling will be centred on BP's exploration programme on the Magnus field, which lies about 125 miles north-east of the Sullom Voe reception terminal on the Shetland Islands. Magnus has already been confirmed as a commercial field and the semi-submersible rig Sedco 703 is about to begin drilling a third well on the structure.

By the end of the year BP hopes that the rig will have drilled three or four new wells and defined the size of the field.

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Problems with the Auk field have been nagging, but not serious. Loading oil on to a tanker started briefly before

Float like a bee, sting like a butterfly

One begins to wonder—maybe it is new year euphoria—whether after all and against all reasonable political and economic odds the Chancellor may not succeed in making some permanent dent in Britain's long ascent towards hyper-inflation. Certainly his performance on television last Sunday suggested a combination of realism, self-confidence and determination in attempting the impossible which commands respect as well as surprise.

It is very hard to find it in one's mind to be so impressed by what he is doing. The misdirected pugnacity and frivolity of one who floats like a bee and stings like a butterfly conceal a sound instinct that reflection is dangerous and a laudable conviction that Britain can and should do better.

It is worth quoting exactly what the Chancellor said, first about inflation and then about the future of pay restraint on which depends his ability to persuade people to accept the consequences of restraint on total spending. It added up, with due allowance for political exigencies, to an uncompromising defiance of conventional notions of political prudence as one is likely to hear from a senior minister in office.

On the subject of inflation the Chancellor said: "I think I can resist (pressures to reflate) until it is safe to do some general reflation. . . . It would be impossible for me to try to deal with unemployment by a general increase in demand of thousands of millions of pounds until we have got our inflation rate down to international levels and that has given foreigners and people at home the confidence in us which would enable us to borrow to cover our (balance of payments) deficit. Now we have not reached that position yet."

It will be some way into 1976 before we can feel satisfied that we have got inflation under control. Secondly, I shall have to decide what is going to happen to the economy anyway. One of the tragedies in past situations like this . . . is that the Conservatives got so concerned in 1974 that they increased demand just at the moment when demand was picking up anyway, with the result that in 1972 and 1973 you had enormous overheating in the economy and growth came to a halt. . . . Now I am determined to avoid that."

"I really do believe the British people have come to terms with reality in the last 12 months in a way they did not in any previous crisis. . . . I do not think any government (the TUC, the CBI and Cabinet colleagues) want me to do anything that will set inflation roaring off again or produce a situation in which we cannot finance our deficit and have to cut our standard of living by 10 to 20 per cent which is what would happen, of course."

On incomes policy the Chancellor made it clear for the first time that, while the form of control will have to be more flexible in any agreement, the advance in money earnings will have to be less in the next year and that that will probably have to be succeeded by a third and yet more restrictive norm in the next year.

Question: "Do you think that the system of voluntary consent and the political realities . . . would ever accommodate a gradual progression down towards a more inflationary norm of 2 1/2 per cent?"

Chancellor: "Yes, I do."

Peter Jay
Economics Editor

year and, of course, some allowance for what the market demand for different sorts of skills.

"I think the real problem next year will not be so much in fixing the overall amount of the wage increase—I am fairly optimistic that people are going to be sensible about it. It is going to be how to have a very much more flexible type of arrangement which will enable us to correct some of these anomalies. . . . In most countries they have precisely the same type of system and it has worked very well, not permanently, but for very long periods."

Perhaps most remarkable of all, even after due allowance is made for the temporary nature of the Chancellor's formulations, he talked of relaxing the tax burden on middle managers at a time when fiscal and monetary policies will not be relaxed, when unemployment is bound to be statistically very high and when pay restraint will be becoming at least nominally more restrictive every year. If this will not yet make the pips throw their bats in the air, it should at least prevent the squeaking turning into screams of pain.

The Chancellor said: "There is one major problem of which I am deeply conscious: and that is the incentive problem for middle management. . . . The gap on between say, £4,000 and £8,000 a year, has been taken quite easily and I would like to help him. . . . I would certainly like on the whole to relax taxation on what people earn, even if it meant increasing it on what people do not earn."

Time alone will show whether the Chancellor can live up to the spirit of this strategy. But one would have to be even more sunk in pessimism than I am about the capacity of any government to solve Britain's economic problems to deny that a year in which general reflation was substantially resisted well beyond the nadir of the deepest postwar recession, in which every restraint of production was strictly enforced, in which the general response to the challenge of rising unemployment and in which the burden of tax on marginal earnings was markedly reduced would make a real contribution to restoring sanity and vitality to Britain.

Business Diary: Lord Erroll is in the chair

What is seen as a reflection of these highly politicized times, mining as in the case of the consolidated Gold Fields Limited has partly broken with its tradition of promoting through its ranks.

Lord Erroll of Hale, who acted as a director in 1967, is to become chairman in June on the retirement of Donald McCall, who has spent most of a working life there.

Defenders of promotion through the ranks are, however, offended by the appointment as managing director (a job so held by McCall) of deputy chairman Gerald Mortimer, 61, who has spent most of his life in the City.

Mortimer's number two is to be Barthelemy Ryan, another deputy chairman. Ryan is so well known in the City that he joined the mining finance house in 1966 in the rival Rio Tinto-Zinc group.

The decision to split the jobs of chairman and managing director is a second big change in the company's management. Although the company is coy about the reasons, Lord Erroll is to have a "special responsibilities", and will be particularly concerned with the international political and commercial handling of the company, which is now inseparable from the mining industry, presumably, in mind the shop.

This division of labour—if that is the word to use of Lord Erroll, a Tory peer and a member of the Board of Trade and Minister of Power—allows the peer to carry on his other interests, among them the chairmanship of Bowater. He will, however, be reviewing his lesser commitments.

Lord Erroll, who was once an engineering apprentice, is more popularly known as Lord Erroll of Hale, from his chairmanship of the House of Commons Licensing Committee.

This produced a report of a couple of years ago recommending longer and more flexible pensioning hours and a lowering of the age at which young people might drink.

While the report has been gathering dust ever since, Lord Erroll says that it is not yet lost. A private member's Bill, which would permit pubs to stay open between 10 am and midnight, has been a chance of getting through the House.

Pardoe's policy

John Pardoe found himself becalmed, but in friendly waters, when he fetched up once more in the City to address the Industrial Forum this week.

The Liberal MP for North Cornwall has to some extent addressed the forum three years ago—only more so. Despite the Chancellor's soothing noises, he saw a British economy in decline for a century past, a



Thorpe and Pardoe: Where the wind's like a whetted knife (Mansfield, Sea Fever).

decline unlikely to be halted by a mere change of government, even to one led by Jeremy Thorpe or John Pardoe.

Pardoe, who is 41, is commonly regarded as a counterweight to Thorpe's crown of thorns as Liberal leader. As a Liberal spokesman on economics, he is also conceivably a candidate for a Liberal place in any coalition.

A former deputy whip, party treasurer and now chairman of his party's standing committee on policy, Pardoe's own policy is similar to that of the Fat Boy in *The Pickwick Papers*—to make you flesh creep.

If the Liberals did not sow the wind, he seems to think, they must reap the whirlwind. The Liberals, he told the forum, should be the party of disaster. Then when the people find that disaster is staring them in the face they will turn to the Liberal Party.

City comedy

Bernard Hollowood, Richard Wilson's fellow cartoonist on *Business Diary*, produces his apologia in *Funny Money*, the latest collection of his writings and drawings.

"It is a lot of fun at the City and its denizens," he writes in the foreword. "It is because I see them as 'key figures' and institutions in the human comedy."

In the public eye, hardly anybody, including cartoonists, is employed honourably and is free from the seven deadly sins, Hollowood avers.

Economists, for instance, are seen as dismal jimmies unable to grapple with each other and as spouting platitudes disguised in jargon.

Exploring this topsy-turvy world, he quotes a Lloyd's man as saying that "the biggest profiteer in Britain is the Government itself. It prints money for practically nothing and flees to the banks at 100 to the £, and I make that a profit of almost 100 per cent."

It is an achievement to make funny anything about money at the moment.

Macdonald & Jane's, £2.75.

The Suez Canal on the way to recovery as a major seaway

The rehabilitation of the Suez Canal has proceeded over the past six months with a speed and smoothness that may have exceeded the hopes of the Egyptians as much as the expectations of others.

No one has been blown up. No one has crashed. No one has got stuck. So the most immediate fear of potential users when the canal opened last June (Was it safe to use?) is now pretty well laid to rest.

Traffic has built up steadily from about 10 ships a day initially to nearly 40 a day now, compared with nearly 50 a day before closure, and it would undoubtedly be more were it not for the shipping recession which markedly reduced the attractions of the canal, particularly for tankers.

So the other immediate fear of potential users—that tolls might be set at an unacceptably high level—has also turned out to be unfounded.

At about double pre-closure levels canal tolls have barely kept up with inflation, having been set, according to Dr Nashour, chairman of the canal authority, to achieve maximum revenue. The temptation to introduce differential rates, with higher charges for routes that benefit most, has been resisted (possibly because Egypt's Arab friends would be the ones to pay the higher rates) and even ship-owners concede that present toll levels are generally fair—with certain exceptions.

The most important of these is container ships, which suffer a 10 per cent surcharge for containers carried on deck. Container operators say this is unfair because boxes on deck no more than make up for empty spaces inside. The canal authority says that 10 per cent container surcharge is more than fair since many containers carry 30 per cent or more of their boxes on deck.

In London yesterday for talks with the International Chamber of Shipping (attended significantly by the Russians, who are canal users) Dr Nashour said that the canal authority was prepared to reconsider the decision to ban containers on deck. Apart from the ACE, one of the Europe to Far East container consortia, none of the big international container groups, who probably constitute the most important user group after tankers, has as yet transferred to the canal route.

Tolls are not their only problem. The big second and third generation container ships find the canal's present dimensions a tight fit and are still seeking assurances on things like access, tugs and turning circles.

But if all goes well, a switch to Suez by the thirty to forty big container ships of Trio, Scandinavia and AEGIS could be the big Suez news of 1976—not because they are particularly want to at a time when they, like tankers, have surplus capacity, but because market forces will probably make them remain in shipowners' minds: will war break out again around Suez, will the authority try to push up tolls inordinately when canal-based route patterns are reestablished and the recession ends?

As to the first, a major requirement now being sought is an effective early warning system so that ships could be diverted to good time when trouble brews.

As to the second, Suez has no monopoly; Panama and the Cape are alternative routes. Shipping has learned to do without it and could soon do so again.

Meanwhile, Egypt's confident preparation for a phase two expansion, giving a 1977 total of 150,000 tonnes by 1977, could only be a hopeful portent for world peace and world trade.

Michael Barry

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Euro-issues swelled to £3,000m last year

In its first bulletin of the year, Kreditbank SA Luxembourg has published an analysis of the Eurobond market in 1975. It points first to the outstanding record of the volume issued during the year—the equivalent of \$US\$5,942.2m (nearly £3,000m).

Looking closer at the 188 loans the bank notes that the United States dollar maintained its leading position as an issuing currency with 45% of the total, followed by the Deutschmark (23%), the Canadian dollar (18.5%) and the European Unit of Account (6.4%). It is pointed out here that since the first 12 issues in 1961, the overall amount has exceeded 1,000 million units.

The French franc made a reappearance in the market (4.4%) as well as the ECU (one issue). But the feature of the year was the use of the SDR for the first time, for three issues.

The following league table lists the top ten banks, according to volume, with the number of public Eurobond issues managed and co-managed last year (SG Warburg came 13th with \$914m):

| Bank | Issues | Value (\$m) |
|---------------------|--------|-------------|
| Kreditbank | 27 | 1,283 |
| Paribas | 27 | 1,283 |
| Deutsche Bank | 27 | 1,283 |
| Comptoir d'Escompte | 27 | 1,283 |
| Bank of Montreal | 27 | 1,283 |
| Bank of America | 27 | 1,283 |
| Bank of England | 27 | 1,283 |
| Bank of France | 27 | 1,283 |
| Bank of Italy | 27 | 1,283 |
| Bank of Spain | 27 | 1,283 |

A geographical breakdown reveals the predominance of European borrowers with 57% of the volume. Then came Japan (13%), and Canada (12%), followed by Australia, New Zealand and South Africa (11%). American borrowers totalled only 3.9%.

For 1976 Kreditbank predicts a brisk market, as capital requirements remain "enormous". Nevertheless, there could be a reversal of the situation, thereby forcing restrictive monetary policies from authoritative bodies.

Bank sees little evidence of Australia upturn

Australia's largest commercial bank, the Bank of New South Wales, reports a new profit record for the year to last September 30. But in its annual review, the Bank says that Australia's recession is proving more persistent, and recovery delayed.

The bank's 1975 profit of £12.2m, compared with £10.2m in 1974, is attributed to a 25 per cent increase in interest income, and a 25 per cent increase in other income, and a 25 per cent increase in other income, and a 25 per cent increase in other income.

Swiss bank buys into Daimler-Benz

The first stage in the placing of Mercedes-Benz shares is complete with the news yesterday that the Union Bank of Switzerland has become the largest institutional stakeholder in the company.

The bank's purchase of 10 per cent of the company's shares, valued at £1.2m, is part of a larger plan to acquire a 25 per cent stake in the company, valued at £2.4m.

Bank Base Rates

| Bank | Rate |
|-------------------|---------|
| Barclays Bank | 11% |
| First London Secs | 11% |
| C. Hoare & Co. | 11% |
| Lloyds Bank | 10 1/2% |
| Midland Bank | 11% |
| Nat Westminster | 11% |
| Rossminster Acc's | 11% |
| Shenley Trust | 12 1/2% |
| 20th Century Bank | 12 1/2% |
| Williams & Glyn's | 11% |

Commodities

GOVERNMENT: Profit-making oilseed values on the London market were mixed. The price of linseed oil was 100.00, and the price of rapeseed oil was 100.00.

GOVERNMENT: Profit-making oilseed values on the London market were mixed. The price of linseed oil was 100.00, and the price of rapeseed oil was 100.00.

Pechiney may have lost £72m

Pechiney Ugine Kuhlmann SA (PUK), a big aluminium, steel and pharmaceutical group, expects a 1975 consolidated loss of about £75m (about £72m).

The loss is attributed to a 25 per cent increase in interest income, and a 25 per cent increase in other income, and a 25 per cent increase in other income.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

| Issue | Price |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

PRINCE OF WALES HOTELS

Turnover for half-year June 30 up from £781,000 to £954,000. Pre-tax loss, £18,000 (profit, £14,000). However, there has been a strong recovery in second half and board expects a reasonable profit for full year.

J. H. NIGHTINGALE & CO LIMITED

| Company | Rate |
|----------------------|------|
| 25 Armitage & Rhodes | 33 |
| 24 Deborah Services | 38 |
| 15 Henry Sykes | 144 |
| 2 Twynlock Ord | 24 |
| Twynlock 12 1/2% | 58 |
| Twynlock Holdings | 60 |

Foreign Exchange

The dollar eased a little on most foreign exchange markets yesterday, with many operators marking time ahead of the outcome of the International Monetary Fund's deliberations at the Jamaica conference. Exchange rates moved narrowly in moderate trading.

The dollar started lower, rallied and then drifted to finish modestly higher, with lower interest rate trends still an adverse factor.

Spot Position of Sterling

| Month | Rate |
|-----------|------|
| 1 month | 1.48 |
| 3 months | 1.48 |
| 6 months | 1.48 |
| 12 months | 1.48 |

Forward Levels

| Month | Rate |
|-----------|------|
| 1 month | 1.48 |
| 3 months | 1.48 |
| 6 months | 1.48 |
| 12 months | 1.48 |

Gold

| Month | Rate |
|-----------|------|
| 1 month | 1.48 |
| 3 months | 1.48 |
| 6 months | 1.48 |
| 12 months | 1.48 |

Authorized Unit Trusts

| Trust | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Discount market

Credit was in short supply in the discount market yesterday, and the Bank of England was required to assist the market on a large scale. This official help was effected through Treasury bill purchases.

However, identified factors suggested this help was slightly overdone. Among the adverse factors behind the market's struggle was the run-down balance brought forward from Tuesday, verveless transfers to the Exchequer, maturing local authority bills in the hands of the Bank of England, and the Government's move to the rising market.

Money Market

| Month | Rate |
|-----------|------|
| 1 month | 1.48 |
| 3 months | 1.48 |
| 6 months | 1.48 |
| 12 months | 1.48 |

Recent Issues

| Issue | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Wall Street

New York, Jan 7.—The New York stock market rallied for the fourth straight session of the New Year, with the Dow Jones Industrial average advancing 7.57 points to 338.55. At its best level of the session, it broke out above the 300 level, bringing on some pre-planned selling for profit, brokers.

Advancing issues moderately outnumbered declines about 925 to 575. Volume totalled 33,770,000 shares compared with 31,770,000 yesterday. Today's volume was the third highest on record.

Silver closes 3.2 cents up

| Month | Rate |
|-----------|------|
| 1 month | 1.48 |
| 3 months | 1.48 |
| 6 months | 1.48 |
| 12 months | 1.48 |

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

| Unit | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Offshore and International Funds

| Fund | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

| Unit | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Offshore and International Funds

| Fund | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

| Unit | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Offshore and International Funds

| Fund | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

| Unit | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Offshore and International Funds

| Fund | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

| Unit | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Offshore and International Funds

| Fund | Rate |
|---------|--------|
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |
| 100/100 | 100.00 |

Stock Exchange Prices

Leaders strong

Drummond's  Freedom
Suitings ...for the
patterns of success

THE TIMES SHARE INDICES
The Times Share Indices for 07.01.56 (base 100)

date: June 2, 1964 original base date: June 2, 1964

| Index | Div. | Ear- ings | In04 No. |
|-------|-------|--------------|-------------|
| No. | Yield | Yield | |

The Times4 Indus-
trial Share Index 162.11

| | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Land and Water | 127.1 | 3.94 | 11.1 | 189.1 |
| Building Costs | 127.1 | 9.75 | 160.4 | |
| Capital Gains | 127.1 | 10.61 | 191.1 | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|------|-------|--------|
| Corporate Bonds | 185.47 | 4.56 | 10.32 | 195.35 |
| State Shares | 240.00 | 0.20 | 0.63 | 138.00 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|------|---|-------|
| Largest financial shares | 192.55 | 5.34 | - | 790.3 |
| Largest financial and non-financial | | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|------|---|-------|
| ... and in 1981 | 15.81 | 3.73 | — | 265.3 |
| ... and in 1982 | 15.81 | 3.73 | — | 265.3 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Gold Mining Shares | 46.45 | \$ 55 | 70.00 | 49.7 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|---|------|
| Industrial distribution stocks | 75.73 | 7.78* | — | 36.4 |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|---|------|

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------|---|------|
| polyethylene glycols | 49.37 | 14.75° | — | 49.4 |
|----------------------|-------|--------|---|------|

1 record of The Times Industrial Share

High Low

[illegible]

1991-1992

■ The impact is 10.

N.A.P.F. for an Information Officer to specialise in pensions information.

The person appointed will be required to disseminate appropriate information to members; organise and maintain a library covering all aspects of the pension fund; movement; liaise with Government departments and other relevant bodies; answer the day to day questions of members of the Association; and undertake desk research when necessary. Applicants must have two to three years experience of this type of work not necessarily gained in the pensions movement. Salary will be attractive and membership of a good contributory pension scheme is offered.

Applications must be sent as soon as possible to:-

J. D. Cran, Esq., Secretary,
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PENSION FUNDS
Prudential House,
Wellington Road,
Croydon CR0 2AD.

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